**The Cuban Revolution -- Canadian Fair Play for Cuba Cttee. INDEX 1960-2001**
** item on file and at National Archives*

**1960**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1960-0 | FPCC file photo: Fidel y el Che, ca.1960 |
| 1960-10Oct29a | 1960-CCF: H. Argue: ‘’For an independent foreign policy!’’ |
| *1960-Jan. 18 | Toronto Star letter from Pierre Berton (deferring support) |

**1961**

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|---|---|
| 1961-01Jan28 | Press release re: formation of FPCC, by Vernel Olson |
| 1961-01Jan30 | *Toronto Star*: City Group Seeks ‘Fair Play for Cuba’ |
| 1961-02Feb11 | FPCC logo on letter re: formation of defence committee |
| *1961-Feb. 16 | Letter of support from NDP-MP Hazen Argue, Ottawa |
| *1961-Feb. 20 | (Stalinist) *Tribune*: ‘Trotskyist booklet full of lies about Cuba’’ |
| 1961-03Mar13 | Letter from Farley Mowat re: summer trip to Cuba (rain check) |
| 1961-03Mar18 | Cuba & Canadian Labor (*Nfld. Examiner* on Cuba – ICFTU) |
| 1961-03Mar27-1 | Letter from CCF-MP William Irvine accepting tour invitation |
| 1961-03Mar27-2 | Letter from Irving Layton accepting Cuba tour invitation |
| 1961-03Mar28 | Letter from *Nfld. Examiner* editor accepting tour invitation |
| 1961-04Apr7 | FPCC letter offering speakers on Cuba to unions, riding clubs |
| 1961-04Apr10 | Letter to Editor, *Globe & Mail* commending editorial on Cuba |
| 1961-04Apr15 | Press release to picket protest of bombing by military aircraft |
| 1961-04Apr17a | Toronto *Globe & Mail*: ‘’Air Raids, Sabotage against Castro’’ |
| 1961-04Apr18-1a | Letter from (NDP) *Saskatchewan Commonwealth* editor |

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| 1961-04Apr18-1b | Statement on invasion of Cuba with US support (Bay of Pigs) |
| 1961-04Apr18-2 | Telegram to Prime Minister Diefenbaker from Farley Mowat |
| 1961-04Apr18-3 | Telegram from H. Horwood, Nfld., condemning US for attack |
| 1961-04Apr19 | Telegram from Edmonton FPCC urging Canadian a UN appeal |
| *1961-April 17 | Letter from editor *Sask. Commonwealth* to V. Olson re visit |
| 1961-04Apr98 | Flyer: Stop the Criminal attacks on Cuba—Act now! Join FPCC |
| 1961-04Apr99 | (undated) Statement by Castro & Dorticos on US aggression |
| 1961-05May3 | *Toronto Star* ad: A Mass Meeting called by Fair Play for Cuba |
| 1961-05May10-1 | Telegram of gratitude to FPCC from Cuban defense cttee. |
| 1961-05May10-2 | Letter of gratitude from Cuban Aviation Workers Union |
| 1961-05May17 | *Sask. Commonwealth* article: Bomb threat at Regina meeting |
| *1961-May 18 | "It could happen to you:" FPCC supporter fired from job |
| 1961-05May99 | Flyer: Danger to Cuba remains, FPCC warns of US threats |
| 1961-06June 9a | *Toronto Telegram*: Pro-Cuba Reds infiltrating our campuses |
| 1961-06June 9b | Photo: Mass FPCC Toronto protest at US Consulate |
| 1961-06Jun19 | Letter to Ambassador Cruz protesting stall on organizing tour |
| 1961-06Jun23a | Alberta CCF left-wing resolutions to NDP founding convention |
| 1961-06Jun27 | Olson report re resignation of two professors from FPCC |
| 1961-06Jun28 | RCMP smear against FPCC cause of two resignations |
| 1961-06Jun99 | (undated) Report to Chapters on discussion with Dr. Raul Roa |
| 1961-07Jul-2 | Available literature from FPCC |
| 1961-07Jul-4a | Greetings from Fidel: salute to FPCC and North Americans |

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|---|---|
| 1961-07Jul-6a | Letter in Spanish to Fidel Castro regarding July 26 tour |
| 1961-07Jul-18 | Letter of resignation of 5 persons from FPCC |
| 1961-09Sept4 | Press release: FPCC warns of possible American aggression |
| *1961-Sept.7 | Letter from Local 200 U.A.W. for ‘’A Catholic on Cuba’’ |
| 1961-09Sept22 | Vancouver(?) flyer: Wainer: Latin America Looks at Cuba |
| 1961-09Sept99 | Letter Sask. CCF re: interest in Cuba for October news |
| 1961-10Oct00e | ‘’….Everyone had a problem to submit to Fidel’’ |
| 1961-10Oct23 | Flyer: Stop the attacks on Cuba, join demonstrations |
| 1961-11Nov17 | Flyer: Bert Wainer: Latin America looks at Cuba |
| 1961-11Nov21a | Letter V.O. to M. Campbell, Sask. Re CBC cancellation |
| 1961-11Nov27 | FPCC letter recommending Canadian labor leaders for event |
| *1961-December | Castro speaks on Marxism-Leninism (See 1961) |
| 1961-12Dec5a | Press release: OAS conference threatens Cuban Revolution |

**1962**

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|---|---|
| 1962-01Jan3a | FPCC Pres. Olson to H. Pawley: RCMP hunt for RF Williams |
| 1962-01Jan27 | Flyer: Jose Marti Anniversary Banquet with featured speaker |
| 1962-01Jan28 | Press release: report of Ambassador Cruz speech at banquet |
| 1962-01Jan99 | Stop the criminal attacks on Cuba (threats since 1961) |
| 1962-02Feb4 | *(cover broadsheet)* **Second Declaration of Havana** -- Castro+ |
| 1962-02Feb7-1a | Press clippings: *The Varsity* (U of T) ‘’keep lines clear’’ |
| 1962-02Feb7-1b | UAW *Local 444 News*: ‘Canada must stand firm on trade….’’ |

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|---|---|
| 1962-02Feb7-1c | Alberta *Commonwealth*: Latin America's need for justice |
| 1962-02Feb7-2a | *Commonwealth*: What does Kennedy want Cuba to do? |
| 1962-02Feb12 | letter to Ambassador Cruz proposing July 26 event |
| 1962-02Feb25a | Olson letter to G. Glazer, Montreal re: critique of CP role |
| 1962-03Mar-1a | Letter to Montreal FPCC; their very successful banquet |
| 1962-03Mar11a | Press release: FPCC Pres. challenges Toronto press debate |
| 1962-03Mar16 | R. Horn letter to Pete Seeger invitation to join Toronto rally |
| 1962-03Mar18-1 | H. Horn letter to author C. Wright Mills to Toronto rally |
| 1962-03Mar18-2 | Olson letter to *Toronto Telegram* protesting smear on Cuba |
| 1962-03Mar18-3 | ''What do Canadians say about trade with Cuba?'' |
| **1962-Mar 26* | *Pamphlet: Castro denounces Bureaucracy & sectarianism (on file)* |
| 1962-04Mar29 | Flyer: Public meeting: How should Canada act towards Cuba? |
| 1962-04Apr15 | Flyer: Hands off Cuba; Expand trade loans to Cuba |
| *1962-April 16 | Literature sent to Ken O, Vancouver FPCC (file) |
| 1962-04Apr25 | FPCC membership meeting, reports & film, open to all |
| 1962-04Apr28 | North Vancouver FPCC: Films on Cuba; Ken O's. comments |
| 1962-05May12 | Flyer: FPCC Fiesta de Cuba, Toronto |
| 1962-07July7 | Flyer: Outdoor social at Olson home |
| *1962-July | *BC-NDP Democrat*: Cuba: report from a trip in 2 parts |
| 1962-09Sept1-1 | Olson letter to Editor, *Globe & Mail* on Cuban land reform |
| 1962-09Sept1-2 | Declaration by Castro in response to accusations by the US |
| 1962-09Sept3 | Letter to G. Glazer, Montreal: warning on US provocations |

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| 1962-09Sept4 | Press release re: fabricated reports of Cuban attacks |
| 1962-09Sept8a | Flyer: Cuba is in danger of attack; protest at Civic Square |
| 1962-09Sept8b | Flyer: Cuba: an issue for the Peace Rally |
| 1962-09Sept8c | Instructions to pickets to obey picket captains & police lines |
| 1962-09Sept9a | Letter to Gabe, Montreal: Toronto picket of 150 |
| 1962-09Sept11 | Letter from Cuban Ambassador with thanks for FPCC actions |
| 1962-09Sept20a | Los Angeles *FPCC Newsletter*: Fair Play acts in Cuban crisis |
| 1962-09Sept28 | *Vancouver Sun:* Jack Scott column on Cuban children |
| 1962-10Oct17 | BC-NDP: Four lectures on Cuba by Mr.& Mrs. Kournassoff |
| 1962-10Oct22 | Press release: FPCC call to protest US 'surveillance' of Cuba |
| 1962-10Oct23 | Stop attacks on Cuba (missile crisis); Join protest at Consulate |
| **1962-October* | Militant (SWP) pamphlet*: Trotskyism & Cuban Revolution: an answer to Hoy (Cuban CP journal) by Joseph Hansen (on file)* |
| 1962-11Nov3a | Flyer: Carlton Beals speaker on Latin America: FPCC banquet |
| 1962-11Nov3b | U. of T. *Varsity* ad for Carlton Beals |
| 1962-11Nov21 | Vernel Olson to Ambassador Cruz reporting 275 at banquet |
| 1962-12Dec13a | FPCC membership meeting plus Cuban films |
| 1962-12Dec13b | Flyer: Stopping trade with Cuba will be a blow to our farmers |

**1963**

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|---|---|
| 1963-01Jan2a | Castro speech: 4th Anniversary Revolution *(Nat. Guardian)* |
| 1963-01Jan21 | Olson letter to Friends: Castro speech on Agrarian Reform |

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|---|---|
| 1963-01Jan26a | Bob H. letter to Sask. Re films, Cox tape & future speakers |
| 1963-02Feb27 | Press release: Easter tour of Cuba announced by FPCC |
| *1963, July26 | Road to Revolution in Latin America: Castro (See 1963) |
| 1963-03Mar4 | Medical Aid to Cuba Cttee: letter of thanks to Pat Mitchell |
| 1963-04Apr3a | FPCC letter: good sales of ‘’4 Canadians Who Saw Cuba’’ |
| 1963-04Apr3b | Form letter John Riddell offering speeches on Cuba |
| 1963-05May5a | Olson letter to Cuban Ambassador Cruz re pamphlet sales |
| 1963-07July26 | Flyer: FPCC picnic on Centre Island to celebrate July 26 |
| 1963-08Aug19 | Olson letter to Cuban Embassy re Jack Scott pamphlet |
| 1963-08Aug26 | Letter from Consulado, Londres re: UK pamphlet sales |
| 1963-09Sept3a | Letter from Earl Russell welcoming William Worthy |
| 1963-09Sept3b | Russell statement protesting jailing of US citizen’s visit to Cuba |
| 1963-10Oct9 | NDP riding letter to leader T.C. Douglas re urgent aid to Cuba |
| 1963-10Oct18 | Flyer: Cuba: the Canadian view, Cedric Cox speaks in BC |
| 1963-10Oct21 | Letter NDP-MP Herridge re William Worthy case |
| 1963-10Oct24 | Reply Olson to Herridge re Worthy support |
| 1963-10Oct29 | Letter NDP-MP Herridge thanks re Jack Scott pamphlets |
| 1963-Oct99 | Flyer: Suspend the blockade! Join the picket line |
| *1963-Oct | *Mandel on Guevara: Law of Value of Workers' States (file)* |
| 1963-11Nov19 | Letter from T.C. Douglas, NDP leader re William Worthy |
| 1963-11Nov20 | Olson letter to the Montreal Silvermans re their Toronto visit |
| 1963-11Nov23 | Press release: FPCC statement on assassination of J.F.K. |

1963-11Nov26 FPCC Toronto membership meeting and social

1963-12Dec6 Olson letter to *Peace Centre News* protesting red-baiting

**1964**

*1964-Jan2a Castro: "Cuba confronts the future" (See 1964-5th Anniversary)

1964-01Jan2b (review of a PFCC pamphlet) ‘’A second look at Cuba’’

1964-01Jan2c A word about Jack Scott, from *Prairie NDP Commonwealth*

1964-01Jan2d To know Cuba: FPCC publications available list

1964-02Feb5 Letter to England re: good name of ‘Trotskyist’ FPCC in Cuba

1964-02Feb12a Letter to Minister of Trade hailing trade with Cuba despite US

1964-02Feb12b Ackowledgement from Minister Sharp

1964-02Feb13a Letter from B. Horn to Olson re Stalinist FLAP sectarianism

1964-03Mar4 Letter Olson to Malcolm C. re Cuban acceptance Student tour

1964-03Mar15 Olson to Michel Chartrand re his Toronto speaking itinerary

1964-03Mar22 Che Guevara ABC-TV Interview on the US blockade

1964-03Mar25 Olson to M. Chartrand re participation at BC May Day event

1964-03Mar31 D. Middleton to Bob H. re Montreal muster point for sailing

1964-05May21 Bob H. to Olson re FPCC ‘takeover’ of Montreal meeting

1964-06Jun25 *Globe* clip: ‘’45 Canadian Students Planning Cuban Tour’’

1964-06June99 (cover only) The REAL Cuba as three Canadians saw it

*1964-July 2 CNE letter to Olson refusing application for exhibit space

1964-07July16 Olson to C. Biesick, Winnipeg, requesting pamphlet review

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|---|---|
| 1964-07July19 | Bob Horn to Olson re organizing FPCC in Montreal |
| 1964-07July99 | Al Purdy to Olson re his experiences in Cuba |
| 1964-08Aug24 | Olson circular letter to Bruce R. re donation Student pamphlet |
| 1964-08Aug25 | Olson to Horn re funds for French students' tour pamphlet |
| 1964-10Oct31 | FPCC Annual Banquet & Ambassador's speech; party |
| 1964-11Nov30 | Olson to Cuban Consulate re: two prominent Québécois |
| 1964-12Dec3 | FPCC Membership meeting, slide show Student Work Tour |
| 1964-12Dec28 | Olson letter to Norman Endicott re his joining FPCC executive |

**1965**

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|---|---|
| 1965-00a | FPCC Literature list; Adolfo Gilly pamphlet |
| 1965-00b | Speeches of Fidel Castro available |
| 1965-00c | List of pamphlets on Cuba available; Pamphlets from Cuba |
| 1965-00d | New FPCC pamphlet ''Canadian Students in Cuba'' |
| 1965-00e | How You Can Help (against the US and Canadian blockade) |
| 1965-01Jan5 | Olson to Ambassador Cruz: regrets unable to attend celebration |
| 1965-02Feb12 | New Democratic Youth forum: What is happening in Cuba? |
| 1965-02Feb21 | Olson to Consulate: sending literature and records for Cuba |
| 1965-03Mar16 | FPCC letter to university bookstores re 1964 Student booklet |
| 1965-03Mar18 | Letter to Montreal bookstores re 1964 Student Cuba Tour |
| 1965-03Mar22a | Press release: Second student tour of Cuba announced |
| 1965-03Mar22b | Campus news ads for student tour: ''Help wanted in Cuba'' |

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|---|---|
| 1965-03Mar31 | Olson letter re: adult summer tours to Cuba |
| 1965-04Apr27 | B. Horn to Olson re student tour interviews in Montreal |
| 1965-05May1 | To Olson from a US donor enclosing a Boston news headline |
| 1954-05May7 | Reply Olson to US donor re busy schedule and demonstrations |
| 1965-06Jun3a | Statement on cancellation of Student Tour to Cuba |
| 1965-06Jun6a | Open letter to Castro appealing for re-instatement of tour |
| 1965-06Jun29 | To Olson from Dave Dellinger re: trip cancellation regrets |
| 1965-06Jun99 | Letter Olson re fund appeal to cover cancelled tour expenses |
| 1965-07July22a | Olson letter to Dellinger re possible political influences in Cuba |
| 1965-08Aug25a | Olson re J.D.'s enquiry re FPCC contacts in Montreal |
| 1965-08Aug25b | ICAP press release announcing cancellation of student tour |
| 1965-11Nov20 | FPCC's 5th Birthday Annual Banquet with Ambassador Cruz |
| 1965-11Nov27a | B.C. FPCC Banquet with Ambassador Cruz & NDP-MP |
| 1965-11Nov27b | (SWP *Militant*) Press clip: ''Castro Challenge to Johnson'' |
| 1965-12Dec98 | Flyer: 7th Anniversary of the Revolution |
| 1965-99a | Document by Vern Olson: ''Where is Che Guevara?'' |

**1966**

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|---|---|
| 1966-01Jan13 | FPCC Executive meeting Minutes: upcoming pamphlets |
| *1966-Jan. | Castro attacks Trotskyists (See W1-1966-Speeches to LSA) |
| 1966-02Feb14 | FPCC Statement on Castro attack on tendency (Trotskyism) |
| 1966-05May6a | Letter to Olson re split in BC_FPCC; new executive elected |

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| 1966-06Jun15a | Hans Modlich FPCC to *Toronto Star* re: Scott article |
| 1966-06Jun15b | Letter from Scott re: *Star*'s permission to reprint his articles |
| 1966-07July27 | Modlich to Jack Scott re refusal of *Star* to release articles |
| 1966-09Sept12 | Modlich letter to Quebec supporter re no Cuba trips |

**1967-1968**

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|---|---|
| 1967-02Feb27 | Modlich circular letter re Castro's 8th Anniversary speech |
| 1967-04Apr6a | Solidarity appeal for Hugo Blanco in Peru from QFL-Quebec |
| 1967-04Apr6b | QFL-Montreal to locals and staff: Blanco's life in danger in Peru |
| 1967-04Apr5c | Nov. 15 appeal re Hugo Blanco's life spared in prison |
| 1967-06Jan19a | Modlich letter to Casa de la Americas re Regis Debray book |
| 1967-06Jun19b | June 9 appeal to General Rene Barrientos for release of Debray |
| 1967-07July26 | Flyer: Join the Fiesta Cubana at Expo '67 |
| 1967-08Aug24 | P. Courneyeur BC FPCC letter to *Monthly Review* re invitation |
| 1967-09Sept7a | Press release re: list of supporters for Debray petition |
| 1967-09Sept7b | Petition for release of Regis Debray (return to H. Modlich) |
| 1967-11Nov9 | Press release re BC-Social Credit attacks on Cuba protested |
| *1967-Nov. | Regis Debray: Declaration at the Court Martial, Bolivia (on file) |
| 1967-12Dec15 | Modlich letter to chansonière Pauline Julienne invitation |
| *1967-Dec. 24 | *FPCC Bulletin*: Developer of Oral Polio vaccine reports |
| 1968-01Jan16 | Modlich letter to Ambassador Cruz: invitation to FPCC banquet |
| 1968-01Jan31 | Modlich to Cuban Consul: invitation to FPCC banquet |

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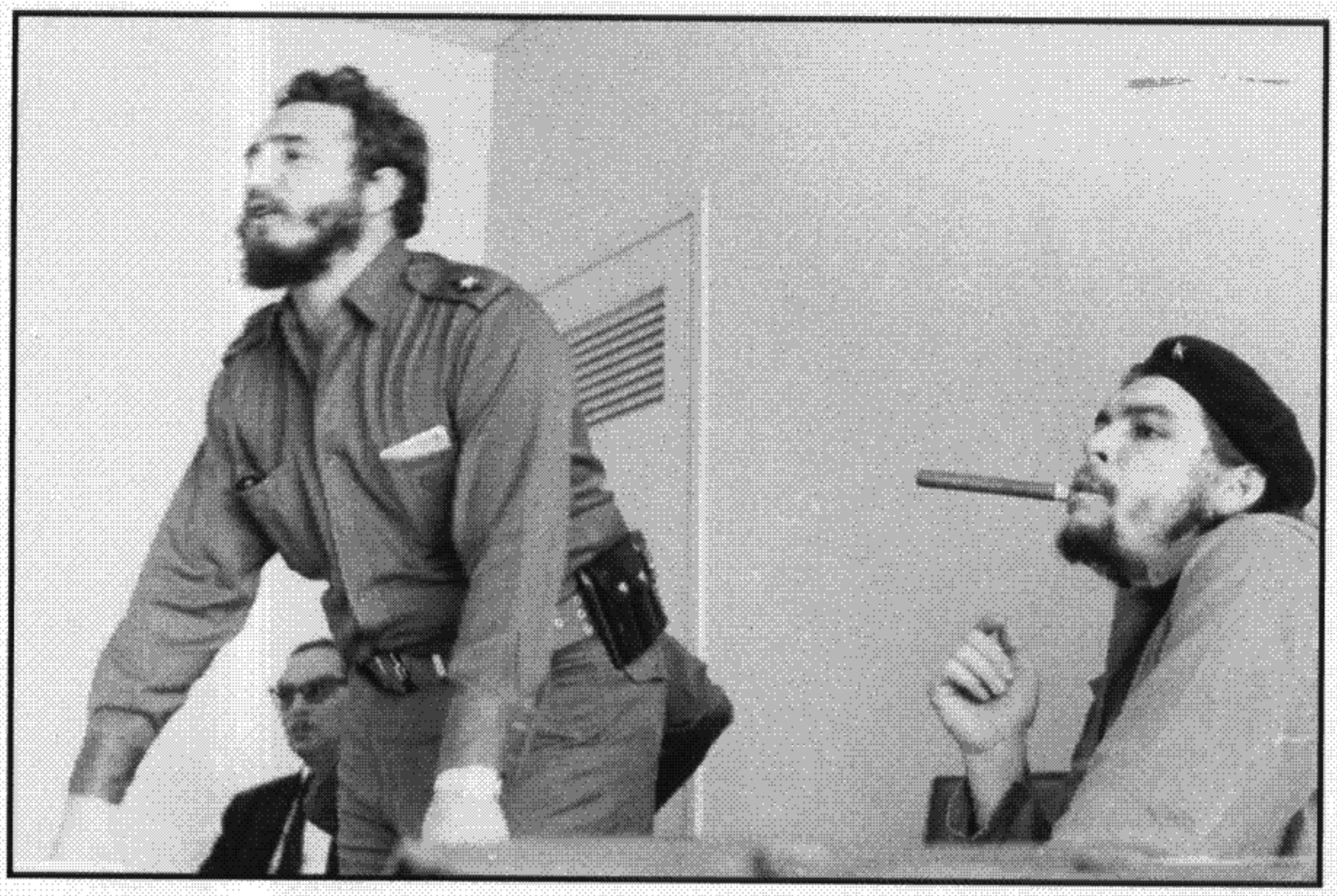
| 1968-02Feb17 | Flyer: FPCC Banquet tribute to Che with featured speaker |
| 1968-12Dec-0 | Che Guevara: 1st Anniversary Day of Heroic Guerrilla |
| 1968-12Dec22a | FPCC Letter ‘’To the People of Revolutionary Cuba’’ |
| 1968-12Dec22b | Press Release: ‘’10 years of progress’’ (200 persons at rally) |
| 1969-03Mar15 | FPCC 10th Anniversary Cuban Revolution Banquet, Toronto |
| **1969-June* | *"Truth about Cuba" to the ILO rejecting Batista era attack* |
| 1975-1991 | Cuban intervention in Angola (Wikipedia) See 1975 text below |
| **1981-pub.1989* | *Castroism & Revolutionary Marxism: George Breitman SEE W20* |
| 2001-Jun15 | Che Guevara: In search of a new socialism (See text 2001) |
| 2001-06Jun15a | Michael Lowy: Guevara: In search of a new socialism (photos) |
| *2001* | *Manuel Pineiro ('Barbarroja') :* Che Guevara and the Latin American Revolutionary Movements *(Ocean Press)* – Interviews with Guevara, Speeches and essays 19722-1990, « A Final Reflection on Che and Bolivia » *(Library – Marxist central leader July 26 movement, organizer of Che's African and Bolivian campaigns – quotes Lenin and evokes permanent revolution)* |



# PRESS RELEASE

CO-OPERATIVE COMMONWEALTH FEDERATION

WOODSWORTH HOUSE 301 METCALFE ST CE-2-53

EXCERPTS FROM AN ADDRESS
BY HAZEN ARGUE, MP
NATIONAL LEADER OF THE CCF
AT THE MOOSE JAW LAKE CENTRE NOMINATING CONVENTION
AT LUMSDEN, SASK.
SATURDAY, OCT. 29, 1960 at 2 P.M. MST

release: 2 P.M. MST, Oct. 29/60

## CANADA MUST HAVE AN INDEPENDENT FOREIGN POLICY!

The need for an independent foreign policy for Canada is clearer than ever before. The United States has become possessed by a mania of fear. Her national judgment has become impaired. It is intolerable for her to see her influence on the wane, her relative power and influence steadily being reduced.

Instead of a calm reassessment, instead of new policies and attitudes, Americans in high places led by their Presidential Candidates are engaged in a wild orgy of hate and witch hunting. The spirit of Dulles and McCarthy have gripped the American nation as never before.

By their hate Cuba attitude, by their noisy counter-revolutionary nonsense, they are alienating the friendship of all Latin America. They raise the possibility, even the likelihood, of many Latin American nations lining up with Cuba in a hard anti-American position. The United States is emotionally upset, spiritually sick and in this wounded and floundering condition a worry to her friends and an easy target for her enemies. The Nixon-Kennedy contribution to world peace and stability is by their antics less than zero.

Here is the time for Canada to keep her head. The Prime Minister is right in carrying on normal Cuban-Canada relations. Now is the time for at least one non-Latin American nation in this hemisphere to remain on business and speaking terms with the Cubans. This contact could be invaluable in the eventual stabilization of relations among nations in this hemisphere.

The Canadian government should make it clear to the United States that Canadians and Canadian companies shall be free to do normal peacetime business with Cuba and we will not tolerate any interference by the United States, by United States parent corporations, or by anyone else in our trade with Cuba.

The Prime Minister will need to screw up his courage. He and his government have wilted before under United States pressure.

At the United Nations, Canada's position was badly compromised on the five neutral nations resolution asking for an Eisenhower-Khrushchov meeting. Here we were isolated with the United States, Great Britain, France and Australia against all the nations of Africa, Asia and the rest of the world.

Now is the chance for Canada to recover some of her lost prestige. Now is the chance for Canada to show real leadership. Above all Canada needs courage and a cool head through this current period of United States election hysteria.

- 30 -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE January 28, 1961.

An organization known as the Fair Play for Cuba Committee has just been formed in Toronto. A list of sponsors of the Committee, which will be published shortly, is headed by Professor Kenneth McNaught of the University of Toronto and Rev. John Morgan, minister of the First Unitarian Congregation in Toronto.

The statement of purpose which was adopted is, "To disseminate truth, to combat untruth, to publish the factual information about Cuba which the Canadian mass media in general suppress, which the Canadian public has the right to know, and in the process to combat the ignorance, the inadequate leadership, the blatantly distorted reporting which we believe to constitute not merely a grave injustice to the Cuban people and a serious threat to their dream of a better life, but a serious threat, as well, to the free traditions of our own people, our nation, our Hemisphere."

The activities of the Committee will consist in part of public meetings, house meetings, and distribution of literature. A membership drive will commence immediately to establish a broad basis for future activity.

The executive committee consists of Vernel Olson, Chairman; Dr. F. F. Sypher, Co-chairman; Peter Skelton, Treasurer; Mrs. Anne Olson, Secretary; Mrs. Pat Mitchell, Membership Secretary; James Garfinkle, Literature Agent; and members Roland Nunez, James Gray, Donald Wilson and Miss Janet Campbell.

The Canadian Committee is a parallel body to the American Fair Play for Cuba Committee which numbers amongst its sponsors distinguished writers, artists, and journalists, such as Waldo Frank, Carleton Beals, C. Wright Mills, Jean Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, and I. F. Stone.

For further information contact V. Olson, 21 Ellis Gardens, Toronto. RO.9-5882.

TORONTO DAILY STAR

MONDAY, JANUARY 30, 1961

*LED BY PROFESSOR*

# City Group Seeks 'Fair Play for Cuba'

A "Fair Play for Cuba" committee has been formed in Toronto with Professor Kenneth McNaught of the history department at the University of Toronto and Rev. John Morgan, minister of the First Unitarian congregation, at the top of its list of advisers.

The committee's primary function is "informational—to help Canadians understand the Cuban revolution," said Vern Olsen, an engineering technician. "Our committee does not give a blanket endorsation of everything Cuban. But Canada should have a proper relationship to the social upheavals, not only in Cuba but in all sections of the world."

Such a relationship can only result from "correct information on the real situation, especially in Cuba, and an attitude of sympathetic understanding."

Other members of the committee's executive are: Dr. F. F. Sypher, co-chairman; Peter Skelton, a chemist, treasurer; and Pat Mitchell, a secretary, membership secretary.

Committee members are: James Garfinkle, a lawyer; Roland Nunez, an interpreter; James Gray, a union organizer; Ronald Wilson, associate secretary of the Student Christian Movement in Canada; and Janet Campbell, a secretary.

Mr. Olsen said the committee will hold a public meeting in the near future "with a name speaker," show films and distribute literature. It will also organize tours to Cuba.

"A key factor in the work of the committee will be its list of advisers with expert knowledge," he said.

"Canadians have looked on their Cuban policy so far as being primarily a trading opportunity," Dr. McNaught said. "We should look on our continued recognition of Cuba as an expression of the right of any ex-colonial country to choose its own way of life."

A lot of pressure will be brought to bear on the Canadian government to follow the U.S. embargo, he predicted. "This U.S. policy tends to drive Cuba into the Communist orbit," he said. "It's foolish."

THE VANCOUVER SUN: Mon., Jan. 30, 1961

# 'Fair Play For Cuba' Group Formed

TORONTO (CP) — An organization known as the Fair Play for Cuba Committee has been formed in Toronto.

A list of sponsors, to be published shortly, is headed by Professor Kenneth McNaught of the University of Toronto and Rev. John Morgan, minister of the First Unitarion congregation in Toronto.

The statement of purpose is:

"To disseminate truth, to combat untruth, to publish the factual information about Cuba which the Canadian mass media suppress, which the Canadian public has the right to know."

The committee proposes to combat what it calls "the ignorance, inadequate leadership, blatantly distorted reporting which constitute not merely a grave injustice to the Cuban people and a serious threat to their dream of a better life, but a serious threat, as well, to the free traditions of our own people, our nation or hemisphere."

SPONSORS
Prof. K. McNaught
Rev. J. Morgan
Prof. L. Dewart

EXECUTIVE
V. Olson
Dr. F. F. Sypher
P. Skelton
Mrs. P. Mitchell
J. Garfinkle

Box 923, Adelaide St. P. O.,
Toronto, Ontario,
February 11, 1961.

Dear Friend,

An organization known as the "Fair Play for Cuba Committee" has just been formed in Toronto. A list of sponsors of the Committee, which will be published shortly, is headed by Prof. Kenneth McNaught of the University of Toronto, Rev. John Morgan, Minister of the First Unitarian Congregation in Toronto and Prof. Leslie Dewart of St. Michael's College in Toronto.

The Canadian Committee is a parallel body to the American Fair Play for Cuba Committee which numbers amongst its sponsors distinguished writers, artists journalists and scientists such as Waldo Frank, Carleton Beals, C. Wright Mills, I. F. Stone, Linus Pauling, Jean Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir.

We have an ambitious program outlined which will do much to break down the barrier of silence which prevents the Canadian people from learning the truth about the Cuban revolution. To make this program a reality, the Committee will require the active support of all people who believe in Fair Play. We hope that you will join the committee thereby giving nominal financial assistance as well as providing assurance that you will be adequately informed on future events.

All members of the FPCC will receive a subscription to the stimulating four page bulletin called "Fair Play" published twice monthly by the FPCC in New York. From time to time we will publish a Canadian insert for this bulletin with the aim of eventually publishing a full bulletin of our own.

Future activities of the Committee will include circulation and showing of movies about the Cuban Revolution; house meetings; and public meetings with name speakers. We are hoping to arrange a Fair Play tour to Cuba some time in the late spring or early summer.

Enclosed you will find an information sheet which tells you more about the Committee and its purpose. At the bottom of the sheet there is space for you to tick off the particular way in which you would like to help its work.

Won't you join us and help make Fair Play a household word in Canada?

Fraternally,

Vernel Olson

Vernel Olson,
Chairman.

encl.

(Found in 1961)

Palgrave. March 13.

Dear Verne.

Damn and blast. I have an appointment in the city Thursday evening. However I shall be coming in in the PM and will be free from about 4.00 to 6.30. I could stop off at the Pike's, but I suppose you won't be there until somewhat later. At any rate, I'll phone you when I get in and if Ellis Gdns isn't too far afield, will try and drop in long enough for a chat and a drink. You do drink? If not I will bring my own. Cuban rhum!

On April 1 I go to Regina to sit with Tommy Douglas and cheer on the marchers for anti-H-bomb activities. This should be exciting. I do hope they let me talk. Probably won't. Afraid to, I suppose.

I may be able to get to Cuba this summer. But right now I have a 90,000 word book to write (from scratch) before June 1. Its impossible, but I must try,

Thanks very much for the dinner invitation. Rain check?

Cheers

Farley Mowat.

# Cuba and Canadian Labor

What should our attitude be to Cuba? From reading the daily press Canadian labor should have no hesitation in condemning the Castro regime. But we have had long experience with the daily press, with their innuendos, their distortions and even outright lies, when it comes to dealing with labor. Why should we believe the press now, on Cuba?

Delegates to last fall's convention of the BC Federation of Labor decided to send their top officers for an on-the-spot examination of the situation. Overleaf we reproduce an exchange of correspondence on this question between CLC President Jodoin and the secretary of the Prince Rupert Labor Council, and recent CCF candidate, Angus Macphee.

Do brother Jodoin's comments flow from reading the daily press and the highly slanted reports on Cuba which have appeared in the Canadian edition of UAW SOLIDARITY? We agree with the St. Johns EXAMINER that these and other statements issued by the ICFTU and ORIT are highly suspect, to say the least. We reproduce below an editorial from the EXAMINER, a fighting weekly whose associate editor is Ed Finn Jr. - the youthful leader of the New Party forces in Newfoundland.

Who and what to believe? The best way to answer this question is for organized labor to send responsible representatives from its own ranks to Cuba and have them report back to the labor movement.

FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE, Box 923, Adelaide St. P. O., Toronto, Canada

MARCH 18, 1961

# The Examiner

Published by The Examiner Ltd.,
131 Bond Street, St. John's, Newfoundland
Subscription Rates: $5 per year in Canada
$6 per year elsewhere
P.O. Box 546, St. John's, Newfoundland
Printed by Robinson & Co. Ltd., St. John's

Authorized as second class mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa
Advertising Manager ..... Malcolm McLaren
Associate Editor ..... Ed. Finn, Jr
Managing Editor ..... Harold Horwood

## Cuba and the ICFTU

The fact that the present Cuban government is a dictatorship, and that certain liberties, including the freedom to strike, are suppressed, does not warrant our joining the American cold war agains Cuba, or endorsing the somewhat hysterical accusations of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

Castro's Cuba has been denounced by the ICFTU, by the AFL-CIO, and by ORIT, the Latin-American branch of the ICFTU. The latter goes so far as to say that the Cuban people today are "shackled by the cruelest tyranny which has oppressed them in their entire history," thereby prejudicing their entire case. For when anyone falls back upon such an obvious untruth as this their other statements naturally come under suspicion.

The ICFTU and ORIT do not have so perfect a record in Latin America that they can afford to cast stones ever at Castro's Cuba. "Unions" affiliated to both those organizations flourished in Cuba under the Batista regime, which really WAS the cruelest tyranny ever suffered by people in the western hemisphere, in this century. The fact that the ICFTU recognized and accepted the puppet organizations which were dominated by the unspeakable monster who ruled Cuba before Castro is nothing to the ICFTU's credit. Not until 1958, when it was tottering on the verge of collapse, did ORIT get around to condemning the Batista regime; and the first condemnation by the ICFTU came only a few weeks earlier. That, also, is nothing to the ICFTU's credit.

The writer of this article has visited a number of so-called Latin American democracies, with unions affiliated to ORIT and the ICFTU. These same countries are American economic colonies, where the condition of the workers is so wretched as to be almost beyond belief.

Castro's revolution was not fought mainly against Batista, who was only a puppet if a brutal one, but against the American imperial corporations, which owned Cuba, still own most of Latin America. The statement of ORIT, that "The Castro government has destroyed in Cuba the foundations of democracy," is a falsehood, for the foundations of democracy—either political or economic — never existed in Cuba. Castro has not brought democracy, but at least he has brought a measure of economic justice to a country which never knew anything except the most ruthless foreign exploitation.

Castro conducted a "purge" in the Cuban unions, that is true. And some of the purged leaders may well have been supporters of true democracy. But a great many of them were the supporters of Batista, the agents and spies which the tyrant used to control the labour movement in his puppet state. Cuba never had a free labour movement. To accuse Castro of suppressing such a free movement is nothing but stinking hypocrisy.

The ICFTU stands for many things which we endorse and support: for unions democratically controlled, free of Communist domination; for the defeat of the present regime in Belgium; for the right of workers everywhere to organize and bargain with their employers, whether they be private corporations or the corporate State; for the end of the colonial empires. But its invitation to us to join the American cold war against Cuba, to support the American economic aggression against that country, or to endorse the efforts of the American corporations to arm and finance a counter-revolution—that invitation we most emphatically refuse and denounce.

The Canadian labour movement has no business taking unto itself such allies as the American oil and sugar corporations, or the cloak-and-dagger operators of the OSS.

# Co-operative Commonwealth Federation

THE ALBERTA FARMER-LABOR PARTY

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MRS. NELLIE PETERSON
PROVINCIAL SECRETARY

March 27, 1961

Mr. Vernel Olson,
Box 923,
Adelaide St. P.O.,
Toronto, Ont.

Dear Mr. Olson,

Many thanks for submitting my name as one who **might** be interested in going to Cuba to see for oneself some of the results of the Castro regime.

Should I be fortunate enough to receive an invitation I shall be happy to accept.

Yours sincerely,

Wm Irvine

5731 Somerled Ave.,
Montreal, Que.,
March 27, 1961

Mr. Vernel Olson,
Adelaide St. P.O.
Toronto, Ont.

Dear Mr. Olson:

Thank you very much indeed for submitting my name to the Cuban Government. I'd be delighted to receive an invitation to visit Cuba for the July celebrations and I would certainly avail myself of it to go down there and see for myself what's happening, there.

I've read Huberman & Sweezey's Anatomy of a Revolution as well as Mills' Listen, Yankee. But the historian, Draper, in his article in the recent issue of Encounter pretty well wipes the floor with both of them ( I'm counting the earnest Gold Dust twins as one ).

However, I want to assure you I have an open mind and if things are different from what I now suppose them to be, you may be sure I'll not sit on my hands, but make my views known to anyone who cares to listen.

Sincerely yours,

Irving Layton

Irving Layton

**The Examiner**

*VOICE OF LABOUR IN NEWFOUNDLAND*

P. O. BOX 546

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND

The Maritimes

March 28, 1961

Mr. V. Olson
Chairman
Fair Play for Cuba Committee
Box 923 Adelaide St. PO
Toronto

Dear Mr. Olson:

Thank you for putting forward my name for the Cuban tour. I most certainly will take advantage of the offer to visit Cuba if it comes through, as I am most anxious to see how the new Cuba looks in comparison to the Latin American countries which I have seen under the colonial system.

The local radio stations have been making quite an issue in the last day or so of what they describe as my election to the executive of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. Apparently CP carried an item on its radio wire, and I subsequently had calls from the local newsrooms. It has been good publicity, if inaccurate.

I have access to mailing lists of trade union officers in Newfoundland, and also active New Party members in this province, so I have been able to distribute some of our Cuban literature where it will likely have the best influence.

If I am in Cuba on July 26, I should wish, if possible, to get back to Ottawa by August 1, as I expect to be elected as a delegate to the New Party Convention, and I am keenly interested in the formation of the New Party's foreign policy, about which there is likely to be lively disagreement.

Sincerely

H. Horwood
managing editor

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# FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE

Box 923,
Adelaide St.P.O. Toronto
April 7, 1961.

The FPCC was formed the beginning of February, 1961, for the purpose of bringing the truth about the Cuban Revolution to the Canadian people. The Committee is now in a position to supply speakers who have been to Cuba in the last 6 months.

It is particularly important that the political labour movement should be fully informed on this vital and controversial question. The Committee would be pleased to supply your club at your earliest convenience.

For further information phone (Mr.) V. Olson, RO. 9-5882 or write the Fair Play For Cuba Committee at the above address.

Fraternally,

Vernel Olson,
Chairman.

... Bazaar at Varsity ...

D & M. Apr. 7/61

## Marchers Protest Cuba Bombing

Protesting the bombing of Cuba, 150 placard - waving demonstrators marched from City Hall to the U.S. Consulate on University Ave. Saturday afternoon. There was no evidence that anyone was in the building.

Vernel Olson, chairman of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee which sponsored the march, declared that the bombings were "flagrant acts of aggression on a member nation of the United Nations." He urged Prime Minister John Diefenbaker to call for an immediate meeting of the Security Council to identify the aggressors and take action.

"We are not anti-American," Mr. Olson said. "Rather we have identified ourselves with the American segment in favor of hands off Cuba."

While he spoke, shouts of "Send in the international brigade," and "Bomb Louisiana" came from individuals in the crowd.

Three youngsters selling tags in aid of the United Nations Association in Canada managed to sell only three after canvassing the entire crowd.

April 10, 1961.

The Editor,
The Globe and Mail,
Toronto, Ontario.

Dear Sir:

We would like to commend you on your excellent editorial in the April 8, Globe and Mail. We agree with you on these points. 1. That the U.S. tolerance and support of anti-Castro rebels constitutes an undeclared war on Cuba and 2. that this U.S. action makes it increasingly difficult for Cuba to maintain its neutrality.

We who have recently visited Cuba were most impressed by the declarations of all Cubans whether in high positions or amongst the populace that they have no intention of being dominated by either the U.S. or the Soviet Union.

Your conclusion that "the most disturbing and discouraging thing about the whole affair is lack of widespread protest in the U.S. itself" has prompted us to decide that this shall not be the situation in Canada. The Canadian Fair Play for Cuba Committee is organizing a protest parade which will meet at the site of the new City Hall at Queen and Bay Sts. and march to the U. S. consulate next Saturday afternoon.

We would however, like to point out that there is some protest in the U. S. in the form of the American Fair Play for Cuba Committee with such sponsors as Linus Pauling, I. F. Stone, C. Wright Mills and Carleton Beals.

Vernel Olson,
Chairman,
FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMM.
Box 923,
Adelaide St. P. O.,
Toronto, Ontario.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Toronto,
April 15, 1961.

"Today's bombing of Cuba by unidentified military aircraft is nothing less than a flagrant act of aggression on a member nation of the United Nations", said Vernel Olson, chairman of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee.

Speaking from a picket line organized by the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, in front of the United States Consulate, Mr. Olson said: "Our Government is obliged to protest immediately against this dangerous violation of the charter of the United Nations to which Canada is a signatory.

"We have sent a telegram to Mr. Diefenbaker urging him to call for an immediate convening of the Security Council so that it may identify the aggressor country or countries from which these planes took off and to take appropriate action to avert the grave danger to international peace that is shaping up. We urge all Canadians to request this action from our Prime Minister in this urgent hour."

FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE.
For further information contact the Committee at;
Box 923, Adelaide St. P.O., Toronto

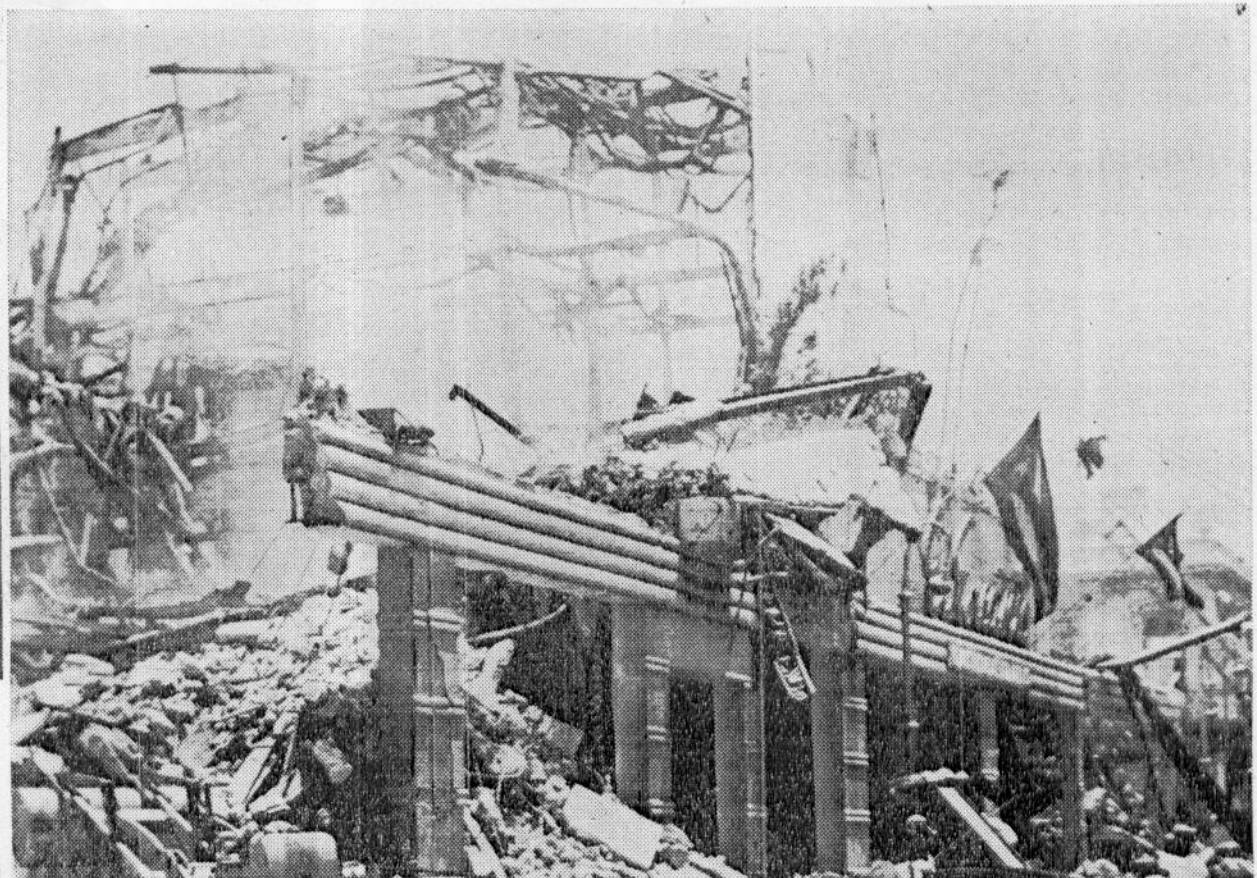
The Globe and Mail

Second Section TORONTO, MONDAY, APRIL 17, 1961 Page 19

**Kiddies' Delic**

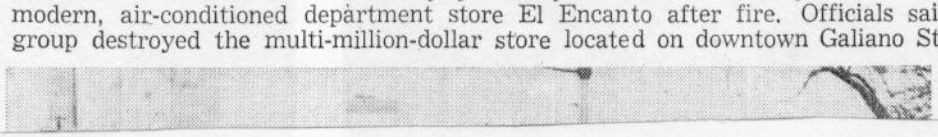
Treat the kiddies to Up floats. Put ice in a tall glass a with Seven-Up. De

# Air Raids, Sabotage Blows Against Castro



—AP Wirephoto.

Bulldozers and workmen were busy yesterday in Havana as they started cleaning up what is left of modern, air-conditioned department store El Encanto after fire. Officials said sabotage by anti-Castro group destroyed the multi-million-dollar store located on downtown Galiano St.



Land in Florida.

modern, air-conditioned department store El Encanto after fire. Officials said sabotage by anti-Castro group destroyed the multi-million-dollar store located on downtown Galiano St.

—Globe and Mail.

Placard-waving group marches in front of U.S. Consulate on University Ave. in Toronto Saturday in fair-play-for-Cuba demonstration. Other placards were lettered: Bombing Violates UN Charter. Get Out of Guantanamo.

# Land in Florida, 3 Cuban Fliers Given Asylum

By TAD SZULC

© New York Times Service

Miami, April 16 — The three Cuban fliers who landed in Florida yesterday after bombing air bases in Cuba were granted political asylum in the United States today.

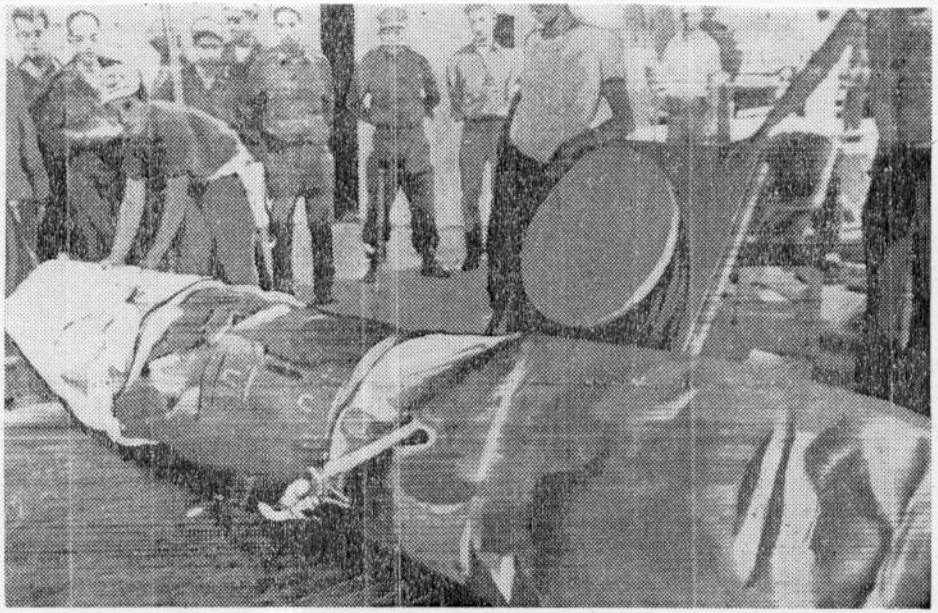
But, in striking departure from the usual practice in asylum cases involving Cubans here, their identities and their whereabout remained shrouded in tight secrecy.

Edward Ahrens, district director of the Immigration and Naturalization Service here, announced tonight the granting of asylum and said the men who described themselves as defectors from the air force of Premier Fidel Castro were free on parole.

One of the B-26 bombers landed at Miami bringing only a pilot and the other one landed at the air naval station in Key West, Fla., with a pilot and co-pilot.

The flier who came to Miami had been taken into custody by immigration officials immediately after landing but later a statement attributed to him was issued describing what was purported to be the defection by him and two fellow pilots.

Confusion was compounded today by a series of apparent contradictions in the story released in the name of the pilot in Miami and subsequent information made available by spokesmen here and in New York for the Revolutionary



National policemen and soldiers stand near bent auxiliary wing tank which officials said fell off one of Cuban Air Force bombers used in attack on Havana's military airport. Diplomats were shown rocket fragments.

Council which is the top command of the anti-Castro forces abroad.

**The pilot's story** was that he was one of four B-26 pilots in Cuba who had planned for three months to escape from Castro's service. He was quoted as saying that suspected betrayal of one of the four pushed them last Thursday into deciding to act at once.

The council's version of the incident spoke of six aircraft, one of which was reportedly shot down in flames. Castro also said yesterday that one of the attacking aircraft had been brought down.

**With only two** of the B-26's accounted for until now—one is here and the other in Key West—it was not clear what may have happened with the additional three planes that the council said had participated in the raid.

Whereas the flier's narrative suggested that three aircraft piloted by three conspirators had been involved in the air strikes, only two planes with three men appeared in Florida yesterday.

Cuba's Foreign Minister Raul Roa (right), in UN Assembly, charged United States engineered bomb attacks. Adlai Stevenson (left), U.S. Ambassador, denied charge, showed photo and said pilots apparently defected from Castro's tyranny. He said no American personnel participated.

The Commonwealth

TELEPHONE - - LA 2-3293

1630 QUEBEC STREET
REGINA - - SASK.

April 18, 1961

Mr. Vernel Olson,
Box 923
Adelaide St. P.O.
Toronto, Ont.

Dear Vernel:

Enclosed is a statement from myself written in haste. Use it in part or any way you like.

On Thursday I will know whether or not the Regina Labor Council will sponsor your meeting as an event at the conclusion of their New Party seminar, Saturday, May 6. I think the chances are good. I am hoping to receive your biography before then.

Regards

F.G.Hanson
Editor

P.S. I have tried to get a statement on Cuba from Tommy Douglas, but he has been busy with cabinet all day, and he has so many engagements ahead I doubt if he will find the time to think about the issue.

He is reluctant to make statements about things unless he feels sureof all the facts, which, of course, is a necessary precaution for the head of a government.

The press reports we received today on the invasion were quite vague and contradictory. I haven't had time to listen to the radio.

(1961)

Statement on the Invasion of Cuba

By F.G.Hanson, Editor-in-chief, The Commonwealth, Regina

The invasion of Cuba has obviously been organized by the private interests which for years kept the Cuban people in economic serfdom. One is forced to the shocking conclusion that the invasion had the moral support of the United States government if not its direct financial and military assistance.

It would have been impossible for the United States government with its highly organized intelligence service not to have known that the invasion was imminent. Everyone has long known about the recruiting at high wages of mercenaries from both the United States and Canada. It is also well known that the USA assisted in the building of a secret air base in Guatemala, a logical point from which to conduct an air attack upon Cuba.

When Fidel Castro spoke of his fears of invasion at the time of the USA presidential election he was scoffed at by official USA sources. This now appears to have been the sheerest hypocrisy.

Also hypocritical is the contention that the counter-revolution is aimed at communism. Castro made an urgent appeal to the USA for help in stabilizing the Cuban economy, and it was only after being rebuffed that he turned to Russia for assistance. The real purpose of the invasion is to return the Cuban people to the condition of exploitation which they suffered so long under former regimes.

The situation calls for immediate action by the United Nations to protect the people of Cuba from cruel injustice at the hands of unprincipled adventurers. Failure to act in this case will seriously destroy the prestige of the UNO in the eyes of the world.

F.G. Hanson

# A Canadian Pacific TELEGRAM

WORLD WIDE COMMUNICATIONS

C.D. IX

"The filing time shown in the date line is STANDARD TIME at place of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at place of destination."

BO AK 149 NL

BOLTON ONT APR 18 1961

MRS V OLSON
21 ELLIS GARDENS 1061
TORONTO ONT.

COPY TELEGRAM DISPATCHED DIEFENBAKER AND C P STOP BY UNDERWRITING AND DIRECTING MILITARY ASSAULT ON CUBA USA, USING OUTMODED BIG STICK OF THEODORE ROOSVELT, HAS DEALT SAVAGE BLOW TO ALREADY TOTTERING PRESTIGE WESTERN DEMOCRACY STOP DANGER IS NOT TO CUBA ALONE STOP AMERICAN AND CANADIAN PEOPLES CANNOT CONCEIVE DEGREE OF REVULSION AND INDIGNATION WITH WHICH UNCOMMITTED WORLD VIEWING AMORAL AND CYNICAL POLICY AND ACTIONS OF USA RE CUBA STOP THIS THINLY DISGUISED ATTEMPT RESTORE CUBA TO STATUS US SATELLITE WILL HAVE MOST DELITERIOUS EFFECTS OUR ATTEMPTS PERSUADE UNCOMMITTED NATIONS THAT DEMOCRACY IS MORE THAN HOLLOW SHAM STOP WORLD AT LARGE PARTICULARLY SOUTH AMERICA ASIA AFRICA WILL SEE LITTLE DISTINCTION IN PRINCIPLE BETWEEN CUBAN AND HUNGARIAN TRAGEDIES STOP IF CANADA DOES NOT IMMEDIATELY DEMAND END USA INTERVENTION CUBAN AFFAIRS SHE WILL HAVE TO STAND CONDEMNED WITH USA BEFORE HOSTILE EYES OF WATCHING WORLD STOP ABOVE MAY BE RELEASED ANY MEANS.

FARLEY MOWAT, FOR PALGRAVE COMMITTEE.

632P.

EXCLUSIVE CONNECTION WITH WESTERN UNION CABLE SERVICE

FORM—6125

CANADIAN NATIONAL TELEGRAPHS

J. R. WHITE, GENERAL MANAGER
TORONTO

CANADIAN NATIONAL TELEGRAPHS

STANDARD TIME

1961 APR 19 AM 8 29

368-6041

TN006 LONG 181 NL=ST JOHNS NFLD APR 18=

:VERNEL OLSON=

21 ELLIS GDS:

=THE INVASION OF CUBA BY AN ARMY EQUIPPED WITH AMERICAN WEAPONS, FINANCED BY AMERICAN DOLLARS, TRAINED ON AMERICAN SOIL, AND LAUNCHED FROM THE AMERICAN PUPPET STATE, GUATEMALA, IS AN OUTRIGHT ACT OF AGGRESSION IN ANY ACCEPTED MEANING OF THAT TERM AND SHOULD BE CONDEMNED BY THE UNITED NATIONS AS SUCH. THE UNITED STATES IS ATTEMPTING TO FINANCE AND CONTROL A FASCIST COUNTER-REVOLUTION IN CUBA, JUST AS IT FINANCED AND CONTROLLED THE FASCIST COUNTER-REVOLUTION IN GUATEMALA. IT WOULD BE A TRAGEDY FOR CUBA, LATIN AMERICA, AND IN THE LONG RUN FOR THE UNITED STATES ITSELF IF THIS ATTEMPT SHOULD SUCCEED CANADA OUGHT TO HAVE USED HER INFLUENCE TO PREVENT THE INVASION FROM STARTING. HAVING FAILED TO DO SO, SHE SHOULD NOW JOIN THOSE WHO CONDEMN THIS ACT OF INTERNATIONAL BANDITRY, AND SEEK TO RESTORE PEACE AND THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION TO THE CUBAN PEOPLE WE STRONGLY PROTEST THE MANY ACTS OF AGGRESSION BY AMERICA AGAINST IT SMALL NEIGHBOUR AND URGE THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA TO DO EVERYTHING IN ITS POWER TO GUARANTEE THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF CUBA IN THIS HOUR OF CRISIS=

HAROLD HORWOOD.

EXCLUSIVE CONNECTION WITH WESTERN UNION CABLE SERVICE

FORM—6125

CANADIAN NATIONAL TELEGRAPHS

CANADIAN NATIONAL TELEGRAPHS

J. R. WHITE, GENERAL MANAGER
TORONTO

STANDARD TIME

1961 APR 19 AM 1 36

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MO DA020 LONG 233 NL 16 EXTRA=FD EDMONTON ALTA 18=

VERNEL OLSON=

BOX 923 ADELAIDE ST PO TOR=

WE WISH TO VOICE OUR PROTEST AGAINST THE UNJUSTIFIABLE AND ILLEGAL AGRESSION NOW BEING PERPETRATED AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF CUBA STOP ALTHOUGH THE UNITED STATES DISCLAIMS ANY INTERVENTION IT IS CLEAR THAT AT THE VERY LEAST SHE IS GIVING SUBSTANTIAL AID COMFORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE REBELS AND IS TAKING ACTION HOSTILE TO THE INTEREST OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA BY ALLOWING THE RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING OF AN ARMY ON U.S. SOIL FOR THE PURPOSE OF INVADING THE TERRITORY OF A MEMBER COUNTRY OF THE UNITED NATIONS THIS IS IN MARKED CONTRAST TO THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WHICH THE U.S. MAINTAINED WAS THE PREVIOUS REGIME UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE NOTORIOUS BATISTA WE BELIEVETHAT FIDEL CASTROS REGIME HAS MADE A SINCERE AND IN MANY WAYS A SUCCESSFUL EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF THE MAJORITY OF THE CUBAN PEOPLE AND THAT IN DOING SO HAS NECESSARILY COME IN CONFLICT WITH INFLUENTIAL ECONOMIC INTERESTS LOCATED IN THE U.S. WE MAINTAIN THAT THE ACTIONS OF THE U.S. SERVE THESE ECONOMIC INTERESTS AND DO NOT SERVE THE WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE OF CUBA WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT SUCH ACTIONS ENDANGER WORLD PEACE AND WE URGE THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT TO TAKE A STAND IN THE UNITED NATIONS AGAINST THIS UNITED STATES VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER=

A M MARDIROS W IRVINE N PETERSON EXECUTIVE OF THE EDMONTON BRANCH OF THE FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE.

FOUND IN 19 1961

# STOP THE CRIMINAL ATTACKS ON THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA

The Revolutionary Government of Cuba has appealed to the ordinary people of Canada to raise their voices in protest against the criminal plans now under way in the United States to drown the Cuban revolution in blood. The Fair Play For Cuba Committee accepts this appeal and calls upon the Canadian people, through the New Democratic Party, the Trade Union Movement and other organizations to protest in the strongest possible way the imminent preparations for the employment of American Armed Forces against the island Republic of Cuba.

The April 1961 invasion of Cuba, planned, financed and engineered by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency showed that nothing short of the full employment of American Armed Forces can dislodge the popular Revolutionary Government of Cuba. The plans for such action are apparently nearing completion.

The Toronto papers carried the full text of the charges by the U.S. government that Cuban gunboats had allegedly fired on a U.S. navy training plane over international waters. But these same papers carried scarcely a word about the official denials from Cuba. Such acts of "impartiality" are a disservice to the Canadian people. There can be no doubt in the mind of any fair minded Canadian, especially after the 1961 fiasco, that the plane incident was a complete fabrication, in fact, it must be seen as the opening gun in an intensive psychological campaign to prepare the American people for the eventuality of direct U.S. military intervention in Cuba.

The charges by President Kennedy that Cuba is becoming a military threat to Latin America, if not to the U.S., is a consciously perpetrated lie designed to "demand" the intervention of U.S. armed forces. The only threat that Cuba represents is a threat to the super profits wrung from Latin America by the U.S. money interests in Wall Street.

Unable to bolster the corrupt and rotten puppet regimes in Latin America with the almighty dollar, the Wall Street investors fear, more than death itself, the liquidation of their privileged position on the backs of the starving masses of this continent. Over one year of experience with the ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS has shown that nothing short of thorough-going social revolutions in Latin America will solve the terrible problems of the masses of this continent.

Cuba, through the institution of such a thorough-going social revolution, has been able to accomplish in the space of a few years what the millions of South and Central America have been striving to do for a hundred years. This has been done despite the incredible obstacles placed in the way by the U. S. government and the economic interests it represents.

This, and this alone, explains the homicidal frenzy in some quarters of the U.S. who would unleash the military power of the mighty United States without so much as a pretext.

The struggle of the Cuban people in defence of their revolution is also the struggle of the ordinary people of Canada. If the government of the United States succeeds in its attempts to drown the Cuban Revolution in blood, a long period of brutal reaction will be opened up on this continent if we are spared, for a time, from the possibility of nuclear war.

ACT NOW AND ACT DECISIVELY!

—— Raise this important question in your union.
—— Act through your New Democratic Party Club.
—— Act where ever you can, but ACT.
—— Join the Fair Play For Cuba Committee.

Published by FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE
Box 923, Adelaide St. P.O.
Toronto.
V. OLSON, CHAIRMAN

(Found in April, 1961)

FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA
COMMITTEE
Box 923, Adelaide St. P.O.
Toronto

The President of the Republic of Cuba, Doctor Osvaldo Dorticós Torrado and the Prime Minister Doctor Fidel Castro Ruz in the case of the invasion of our island, have made the following statement:

People of America and the world:

The imperialism of the United States has launched its widely announced and cowardly aggression aganst Cuba. Mercenaries and adventurers have landed in Cuba. The revolucionary people of Cuba are fighting these aggressors bravelyu and heroecally sure of victory. Nevertheless we call upon the solidarity of all peoples of America and the world, especially we ask our brothers of Latin America to let the american Government know the invincible strength of our peoples through action. Let the world know that the workers, students, peasants and intellectuals of Latin America are with Cuba, its revolution redeemer of poors, patriotic and democratic and its revolutionary Government. This is the moment to back the struggle against the worst enemy of humanity: the yankee inperialism. All Cuba is firmly behind our call: PATRIA O MUERTE. Our battle is yours. Cuba will triumph.

Osvaldo Dorticós Torrado

FIDEL CASTRO RUZ

NOTICE:

The Cuban Experimental Radio Station is broadcasting in Spanish and English band of 25 meters. It can be heard in any short wave set.

Star May 3/61

# axes to Break Even

- If you believe that all nations large or small have the right of self-determination
- If you believe that CUBA with its 6½ million people has the right to shape its own destiny without outside interference
- If you believe that the assault on CUBA by troops trained and equipped by the United States Government is a breach of U.S. treaty obligations of non-interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign nation
- If you believe that the new KENNEDY DOCTRINE—"That the United States may intervene anywhere in this hemisphere, as it sees fit"—makes a mockery of the right of the people of South America—yes, even of Canada—to choose a government and social system of their own liking
- If you believe that the threat of the U.S. Marines and the refusal of the American Government to negotiate its differences with the government of CUBA endanger world peace

## IF YOU BELIEVE IN FAIR PLAY—YOU MUST ACT NOW

1. *Demand of our Government that Canada clearly disassociate itself from the U.S. folly of driving CUBA further into the Eastern Bloc. Let us broaden our trade with CUBA by extending long term credits.*
2. *JOIN and SUPPORT your local FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE.*

## ATTEND A MASS MEETING

### THURSDAY, MAY 4th, AT 8 P.M.

AT THE UNITARIAN CHURCH
175 ST. CLAIR AVE. WEST, TORONTO

Speakers:

— ROBERT F. WILLIAMS
Well known U.S. Negro Leader

— FARLEY MOWAT
Noted Canadian Author

— PROFESSOR LESLIE DEWART
of St. Michael's College, Toronto

— REVEREND JOHN MORGAN
First Unitarian Congregation, Toronto

*Send Your Memberships ($5) and Contributions to*

## THE FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE

BOX 923, ADELAIDE ST. P.O.

OR V. OLSON, 21 ELLIS GDNS., TORONTO

# Canadian Pacific

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## TELEGRAM

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1961 MAY 10 PM 5 12

LT VERNE OLSON COMITE JUSTO TRATO PARA CUBA

21 Ellis Ave. TELEPHON 751

TORONTO (CANADA)

ACEPTE NUESTRO RECONOCIMIENTO ACTITUD ESÈ COMITE DEFENSA CUBA POR AGRESION IMPERIALISTA

COMITE DEFENSA REVOLUCION CENTRO REHABILITACION LISIADOS FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT MARIANAO HABANA .

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AEROVOZ
ORGANO
OFICIAL

# Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores de la Aviación

ADHERIDO A LA
CONFEDERACION DE TRABAJADORES DE CUBA
Y A LA
UNION INTERNACIONAL DE SINDICATOS DE TRABAJADORES DE LOS TRANSPORTES
SAN CARLOS ENTRE DESAGUE Y PENALVER, 2DO. PISO
LA HABANA - CUBA

TELEFONOS
70-1192
79-2231
7-5126
7-4225

"QUE TRIUNFE CUBA O MORIMOS TODOS"

La Habana, Mayo 10 de 1961.-

"AÑO DE LA EDUCACION"

REGISTRO DE SALIDA
11-V de 1961
No. 20 S.N.T.A.

Sr. Verne Olson,
Presidente del Comité
Pro Justo Trato para Cuba,
Toronto,
Canadá.-

S e ñ o r:-

En la prensa de nuestro país, ya liberado de toda opresión de monopolios y trust, se ha publicado las fotografías que le adjuntamos; las cuales demuestran la movilización que ha realizado el pueblo Canadiense en defensa de nuestra querida Cuba.-

Los trabajadores de la aviación de esta bella tierra, agradecen a usted, así como a todos los miembros de ese Comité, las demostraciones de solidaridad y cariño hacia nuestra Patria.-

Sería una gran satisfacción para nosotros, poder demostrarle a través de su persona a ese Comité, el afecto, agradecimiento y admiración que sienten los aéreos, por lo tanto nos tomamos la libertad, interpretando el sentir de todos los trabajadores aéreos y pueblo de Cuba, invitarlo a pasar unos días en nuestra isla, dejando a su entera libertad la fecha, para que si usted no ha tenido la oportunidad de ver nuestra revolución por sus propios ojos, vea de lo que son capaces todos los trabajadores, luchando por una misma causa.-

En espera de su atenta respuesta, aprovechamos la oportunidad para expresarle el testimonio de nuestra mayor consideración, reiterándonos de usted con saludos revolucionarios,

"Patria ó Muerte" V E N C E R E M O S !!

SINDICATO NACIONAL DE TRABAJADORES DE LA AVIACION,

Carlos Torres Canto

Carlos Torres Canto,
Secretario General p.s.r.

SINDICATO NACIONAL DE TRABAJADORES
S. N. T. A.
SECRETARIA
HABANA

P.D. Nuestra dirección:
San Carlos y Desagüe, 2do piso.
Edif. de la CTC-Rev.
Habana
Cuba.-

cc: Interventor de C.C.A.
Int.de Amistad con los Pueblos.-

# Cubans Have Strong Reasons To Support New Reforms

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## Bomb Threat Enlivens Regina Meeting!

REGINA — There had been no internal uprising against the Castro regime in Cuba at the time of the attempted invasion because the vast majority of Cubans were strongly in support of the revolution and Castro's reform program, Vernel Olson, chairman of the Canadian Fair Play for Cuba Committee, told an audience of close to two hundred people in the Museum auditorium Saturday, May 6.

The opening minutes of the meeting were enlivened by information from the city police that they had received a phone call from the local idiot saying that a bomb would be exploded in the hall during the course of the evening. Upon request the audience quietly filed out into the museum lobby for a few minutes while a squad of police efficiently checked the hall. The crowd returned as soon as the all-clear was announced.

Dr. Lewis Thomas, chairman of the meeting, in his opening remarks emphasized the need for Canadians to understand the situation which existed in Cuba and in all of Latin America. Great social changes were certain to come about in countries where the mass of the population was underprivileged, he said. While it was true, he said, that communists would encourage and assist revolutions in these countries, such revolutions were not made in Moscow but were home grown. The people wanted and would accept the friendship of the people of North America if it was offered. It was our responsibility to see that they did not have to turn to Russia for assistance in improving their living conditions.

**AGRICULTURAL REFORM**

The main speaker, Mr. Olson, outlined the reasons for the widespread support of the Castro regime. Prior to the revolution most of the agricultural land had been owned by a few large companies and wealthy individuals. A one crop economy, based on sugar, had been developed. The vast majority of agricultural workers were employed for only four months of the year while the sugar crop was being grown. Millions of acres of land which might have produced other crops was left idle. The sugar interests maintained this condition in order to assure themselves of a vast army of cheap labor for the four months when they needed it. Instead of growing their own food, Cubans had to import most of it from the United States.

After the revolution the great estates were divided up. The former land holders were allowed to keep up to 1000 acres, and the rest was divided among the peasants, each receiving about 66 acres. The land holders were also comensated with twenty-year bonds bearing interest at 4 per cent.

Many large agricultural cooperatives were being developed and a variety of crops were being grown so that the Cubans could now feed themselves.

The estate of the Castro family had been divided up in the same way as the others.

The complaint that in paying compensation to the landowners the government was placing too low a value on the land was due to the fact that the value accepted was that placed on it by the owners themselves for taxation purposes.

The peasants had formerly been housed in wretched shells, barely sufficient to keep the rain off. They had no sanitation facilities, and since many had no shoes they were continually walking in filth and getting parasites through their feet which infected their whole bodies. Life expectancy was 35 years.

Tourists thought of Cuba as a land of resorts and beaches, but there had not been one public beach in the whole of Cuba which could be used by the impoverished Cubans themselves.

**HOUSING**

Reforms had been instituted in the cities similar to those in the agricultural areas. Wealthy landlords had owned many apartment blocks. These had now been taken over for public housing and the landlords were compensated by means of a pension amounting to up to $600 per month. Vast new housing projects had also been initiated, the new tenants being able to purchase them with low payments over a 15 to 20 year period.

**EDUCATION**

The education problem had been tackled vigorously since a vast number of Cubans were completely illiterate. Sixteen thousand teenagers, who had had some high school training had undertaken to go into the outlying districts and teach the people to read and write, accepting only room and board in return. By the end of this year it was planned to have school accommodation for every school age child in Cuba. Six large fortresses had already been turned into schools, and police barracks all over the island had been turned into classrooms.

The old army of Batista had been completely disbanded and in its place was the militia, which was designed to meet the threat of invasion. This was built up by supplying arms to the rank and file of the population throughout the island. There were now half a million people with arms. If they had wanted to rise up against the government they could have done so with the arms supplied by the government itself.

The former rebel army with which Castro had achieved the overthrow of Batista was now engaged in construction projects.

For all these reasons, Mr. Olson said, the people of Cuba strongly supported their government and they sincerely wanted the understanding and friendship of North America. It was only because their reforms had been opposed by the United States that they had been forced to turn to Russia for economic aid. Fidel Castro had gone to the United States seeking a friendly relationship but he had been snubbed by the president and by the state department. Cuban trade had been boycotted and so it had become necessary to look elsewhere.

The report carried by many newspapers, that Castro had stated that there would be no more elections, was completely fallacious, Mr. Olson said. The incident which had given rise to this report was a huge mass rally in Havana following the invasion attempt. Castro had said to the vast celebrating throng, "They say that you are now clamoring for an election. Is that true?" and the crowd roared back, "No!" Castro had then gone on to say that one of the problems to be solved was to find means for a true expression of the popular will.

If elections were held in Cuba now, Mr. Olson said, the Castro government would be returned with a big majority, but the holding of elections would make no difference to the American attitude to the country. In Guatemala, a few years ago a leftist government had been elected in a constitutional manner, but because that elected government was not friendly to the United Fruit Company, it was overthrown by a revolution organized and financed by the American Central Intelligence Agency.

Following Mr. Olson's address a number of colored slides showing developments in Cuba a year ago were shown by Jack Shapiro. A question period concluded the meeting.

PAGE NINE

(Found in 1961 - May)

FAIR PLAY FOR
CUBA COMMITTEE
648A Yonge St., Rm. 10
Toronto 5, Canada

## DANGER TO CUBA REMAINS

Is the invasion danger over in Cuba? By no means! It is now clear that Washington is drafting plans for a direct attack on Cuba before the end of this year. This is openly acknowledged by correspondents of major news publications who have been involved in a series of "off the record" top echelon Washington briefings. The April 27 Christian Science Monitor reported the government is now intensively debating this question "....should it intervene in about 6 months either with or without support from Latin American countries and heave out Fidel Castro, in possible defiance of international treaties and the probable propaganda debacle among peasants and the rest of Latin America?

After a meeting with President Kennedy, Rockefeller, Eisenhower, Goldwater and MacArthur, Mr. Nixon held his own off the record session with newsmen. The April 25, Detroit Free Press reported that the following was an accurate account of Nixon's views. "The United States must go it alone in seeking to wrest Cuba from Communist control....Another venture must be attempted within eight months as a maximum....President Kennedy must be prepared next time to commit maximum American power, if necessary to avoid another debacle." The plan to attack Cuba is also the real reason for Kennedy's demand that the press practice self-censorship. His claims that news accounts of the plans for the CIA sponsored invasion was a factor in its defeat is obviously ridiculous. The Cubans (and most of the rest of the world) were fully aware of the invasion plans long before the American people heard of them via the press. The purpose of the censorship is to catch the American people, not the Cubans, off guard.

We therefore have no cause to believe Secretary of State Rusk's declaration to a Senate group May 1 that there are no plans for armed intervention in Cuba any more than we believed U. S. representative Adlai Stevenson at the United Nations, when accused by Cuba's Raul Roa, when he replied that the U. S. was in no way involved with the Cuban counterrevolution. There is a very ominous ring, however, to the statement made by Rusk that if Cuba should "attack" the U. S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, then the U. S. will defend itself. But since Castro has repeatedly made it clear that he does not intend to offer the U. S. any pretext of an incident at Guantanamo, Rusk added another line (just in case). The U. S. would also "defend itself" if the Cuban government "followed an aggressive course of action". The ground work for the new attack on Cuba is being laid by the special investigation headed by General Maxwell Taylor, on how the CIA "bungled" the last invasion. Edwin A Lahey and David Kroslow, Washington correspondents for the Knight newspaper chain reported "General Taylor, who has been joined in this study by Attorney-General Robert F. Kennedy, is clearly the architect for an invasion of Cuba and will not fail."

The Cubans are determined to defend their newly won independence, their right to govern themselves as they see fit and their right to use their resources and labor to benefit themselves. The accusations that Cuba is a Communist base are ludicrous when the only foreign soldiers on this small island are U. S. Marines. The U. S. State Department is notorious for labelling as Communist any government which shows signs of changing the status quo and introducing even mild social reforms. The constitutionally elected government of Guatemala overthrown with the help of the U. S. is only one of many such interventions in Latin America. The American government fears that the Cuban example will spread because it is succeeding in solving the problem of hunger and unemployment. It fears that the oppressed and hungry of South America will follow the Cuban example of expropriating the immense holdings and resources now under American control.

A full U. S. invasion of Cuba will be met by hundrods of thousands of Cubans presently under arms. Bloody guerilla war will continue even if Cuban cities fall to American invaders. The war will spread to South American countries, and World War III may well begin.

This must not happen. Do all you can, now, to prevent it. Write letters to newspapers and your MP. Join in the work of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee.

# Pro-Cuba Reds Infiltrating Our Campuses

By PETER DEMPSON
Telegram Ottawa Bureau

OTTAWA—A U.S. Communist-infiltrated organization with pro-Castro leanings is spilling over into Canada and has started recruiting members on college campuses and elsewhere.

**The group has already lined up members in Toronto and many of the larger cities.**

An RCMP spokesman said today that the force is aware of the organization, which calls itself the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, and pointed out that "its literature has been distributed" in Canada.

Membership in this country so far is relatively small, but is increasing. In the U.S., the FPCC claims it has more than 7,000 members, with chapters in 37 colleges and 23 cities.

Skull Fra-

UNDERDOG

The FPCC plays on American and Canadian sympathy for the underdog by depicting Cuban Premier Fidel Castro as a misrepresented patriot who is being "bullied" by a big neighbor.

U.S. authorities insist that although all its members are not Communists, the group is heavily infiltrated by Reds.

The RCMP puts it this way:

**"This organization is made up mainly of well-meaning people, but it has been known that persons with ulterior motives associate themselves with such groups. The FPCC, which name indicates some form of political action, is clearly one of these."**

The RCMP spokesman said the force was interested "in any orginization that lends itself to subversive influences," but he would not disclose whether the RCMP had any information that the FPCC had been subjected to such influences.

NEWS LETTER

The FPCC's orientation is clear in its propaganda, which is being distributed to members in the U.S. and Canada through a newsletter and other literature. Appeals have also been made in the U.S. through occasional paid advertisements in the newspapers.

The organization consistently blames the U.S. for friction with the Castro regime, and rarely finds fault with anything Castro has done, even his mass executions.

**U.S. authorities insist they have documentary proof that the committee has been infiltrated by members of at least two Communist organizations. One is the regular Communist Party, U.S.A. the other, less well known to the public, is the Socialist Workers Party.**

The latter is a dissident Communist group that was formed by followers of Leon Trotsky after he was expelled from Russia. It has members in Canada.

Canadian authorities fear that Communists in this country are employing this latest movement as a vehicle to enable them to spread their doctrine.

TORONTO GROUP

In Toronto, V.O. Olson, chairman and founder of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee in Canada, said he was not aware of any Communist infiltration into the organization.

**"Certainly there are no Communists in the executive. In fact I am best-known as an anti-Communist," he said. "We don't screen the members."**

The Toronto chapter has 200 members, and about 300 others are spread out in cities from Vancouver to Newfoundland.

NOT CONCERNED

Mr. Olson said his group was not concerned with the United States position in relation to Cuba.

**His group doesn't defend the Cuban position, rather it tries to understand it, he said.**

Mr. Olson visited Cuba at Christmas, and on his return formed the local group.

*Concentración del Comité "Pro Justo Trato para Cuba", ante la Embajada Americana en Toronto, Canadá, a*

Concentracion del Comité ''Pro Justo Trato para Cuba,'' ante la Embajda Americana en Toronto, Canada, al conocerse la aggression del Imperialisme yanqui a nuestra Patria. Es de destacar la actuacion del presidente del ''Comité Pro Justo Trato para Cuba'' en Toronto, Verne Olson, el cual a pesar de estar lisaido camino con la multitud duvante mas de dos hors por las principales calles de la cuidad en solidaridad con nuestra causa que es la de toda la América y de los pueblos oprimidos del Mundo.

648A Yonge Street,
Room No. 10,
Toronto 5, Ontario.

AMIS DU PEUPLE CUBAIN

June 19, 1961.

Dr. Americo Cruz,
Cuban Ambassador,
85 Range Road,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Dr. Cruz:

On Thursday, Friday and Saturday of last week and again today, we have tried to phone Mr. Mazola in Havana. Each time, we were able to get through to his office, but each time he was not available. Today, we were told that he was on his honeymoon and would not be back for a week. Professor Dewart, who has been doing the phoning, is convinced that he has been getting the (Cuban) brush-off; that obviously Mr. Mazola does not wish to talk to us. In fact, today's message was quite clear ('please do not bother us any more'). I hope that I am wrong in my assumption, but one cannot draw any other conclusions on the basis of the evidence.

I am sure you will agree with me that no other group of people would be more important as visitors than the proposed Canadian list which I have submitted along with many others who are anxious to go at the same time. A large Canadian tour is doubly important in view of the ban on travel in the U.S.A. The Canadian Committee has put forth great efforts in the interests of the defence of the Cuban Revolution. The lack of cooperation from Havana, without even an explanation, is tantamount to sabotage of our efforts here in Canada. We think that the situation is serious enough that an appeal should be made to Fidel himself to intercede in this matter. Mr. Mazola is making a fool of me, as chairman of the FPCC, in the eyes of the Committee membership. Why I cant even tell the members how Havana feels about our proposals.

I do not think that I am over-stating the case when I say that the future of the Committee hangs in the balance over this matter. I am most anxious to know what you intend to do about this matter Dr. Cruz. I await your early reply.

Revolutionary greetings,

Vernel Olson, Chairman.

RESOLUTIONS TO THE NATIONAL FOUNDING CONVENTION OF THE NEW PARTY AS PASSED BY THE ANNUAL PROVINCIAL CONVENTION OF ALBERTA CCF, JUNE 23/24 1961.

On INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. WORLD GOVERNMENT

WHEREAS the world in which we live is too small for national boundaries and H@bombs:
BE IT RESOLVED that the New Party adopt as an ultimate goal a democratic World Federal Government.

2. RECOGNITION OF CHINA

Endorsation of Draft Program, Page 27:

"It is obvious that the United Nations cannot be truly effective so long as a major world power is denied membership. Canada will therefore recognize the People's Republic of China and support its admission to the U.N."

3. REGIONAL MILITARY PACTS

WHEREAS NATO has become a purely military organization; and
WHEREAS membership of NATO associates us in a military pact with the unsavoury activities of regimes such as Belgium, Portugal and Turkey; and
WHEREAS we are already opposed to the spread of nuclear weapons, and West Germany is calling for nuclear weapons and the United States is pressing for us to accept nuclear weapons; and
WHEREAS all these pressures cannot possibly lead to a voluntary disbandment of regional pacts; and
WHEREAS commitments to regional pacts now consume a large proportion of our national revenue, and withdrawal from such pacts will release funds for peaceful and productive purposes:
BE IT RESOLVED that the New Party advocate Canada's immediate withdrawal from NATO and NORAD and urge that the United Nations be provided with an effective police force to maintain the peace of the world.

4. EMPHASIS ON PEACE POLICIES URGED

WHEREAS the statements in the New Party Draft Program seems to require an entirely new approach and
WHEREAS at the presnnt time 40¢ of every dollar each Canadian pays in taxes x goes to military establishments; and
WHEREAS these military establishments make not the slightest difference between the mutual deterrent exercised by the two opposing powers - the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R.:
BE IT RESOLVED that the New Party urge that this money be channelled into a positive program of attacking the root causes of war and in supporting nationally and internationally programs making for positive social gains and in the cause of peace.

INTERNATIONAL RESOLUTIONS (Continued)

5. NUCLEAR CLUB MEMBERSHIP

BE IT RESOLVED that as a fellow member of the Commonwealth Canada should urge Great Britain to renounce her membership in the Nuclear Club, and instead provide leadership for the non-nuclear group.

6. CUBA

WHEREAS the United States has recently undertaken an aggressive but unsuccessful invasion in Cuba, by giving substantial aid, comfort and encouragement to rebel groups, including former adherents of Batista, and has allowed the recruitment and training of an army on U.S. soil for the purpose of invading a member country of the United Nations; and
WHEREAS this is in marked contrast to the friendly relations which the U.S. maintained with the previous regime under the control of the infamous Batista; and
WHEREAS we believe that Fidel Castro's regime has made a sincere and in many ways a successful effort to improve the living standards of the majority of the Cuban people, and that in doing so has necessarily come into conflict with influential economic interests located in the United States:
BE IT RESOLVED that Canada should inform the U.S. that it is resolutely opposed to any kind of intervention in the affairs of the Cuban Republic, that it believes that such action endangers world peace, and is a violation of international law and the United Nations Charter.

7. ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

WHEREAS in the light of recent events, paticularly the way in which the United States has attempted to use the Organization of American States as an instrument of its own imperialist policies,
BE IT RESOLVED that until the time that Canada has a New Party Government, the New Party oppose Canada's entry into the Organization of American States.

(Found in 1961-June 27)

# REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN

On June 27th, the Toronto evening papers announced that two of our sponsors had withdrawn from membership in the Committee. In press statements, both affirmed that they were in agreement with our stated aims and with the actions of the Committee to date. But they asked of me, as chairman of Fair Play, something which I myself am certain cannot be granted.

What Professors Dewart and McNaught wanted was a constitutional guarantee "that all governing officials of the Committee should be above reproach in their loyalty to the Queen and Canada's established constitution". In my opinion, we cannot submit in any way to the slightest suggestion that the Committee, or any persons acting for the Committee, do not meet the above standards demanded by Professors Dewart and McNaught, or through them by "some intelligence" unnamed.

As acting National Chairman, I have taken for granted that all Committee supporters were vigorously opposed to the witch-hunt which has so stultified intellectual life on this continent. We have had to combat this atmosphere from the word GO in order to establish the truth about Cuba. It was in this belief that I declined to become the instigator of a policy to keep the Committee "above reproach....."

Already two chapters have responded with support for this position. From Montreal the following telegram was received: "Montreal strongly affirms continuation of Fair Play. Intimidation by thought police reminiscent of twenty year Duplessis Regime here. Quebecers only now breathing a little more easily. Bill of rights guarantees are meaningless unless they are used. Artificial attempts to make our work "respectable" are refuted by history of civil liberties battles. Enemies of Fair Play will not be soothed or distracted by name changes. Don't bow to hysteria sincere or otherwise. Keep up good work." Signed Cliff Payne, Chairman and Gabe Glazer, Vice Chairman. From Winnipeg, Howard Pawley writes "Don't become discouraged, we are all with you in Winnipeg."

A motion in the Toronto chapter to dissolve the Committee was proposed by a minority of the executive and defeated overwhelmingly at a membership meeting of about 60 persons. A motion to proceed to establish a more representative national structure was passed at the Toronto meeting.

Vernel Olson

June 28, 1961

The first fruit of the RCMP smear that it is investigating Fair Play, along with Radiation Hazards and other dissenting groups, has ripened and fallen. The June 27 issues of the Toronto dailies announced that two of our sponsors have withdrawn from membership on the committee.

The announcement comes as a suprise for only a few hours previous, after lengthy discussions with Professors Dewart and McNaught, following which they gave me their resignation, we parted with their good wishes for the continued success of Fair Play. Both have affirmed this in the press with their comments that they are completely in agreement with our stated aims and with everything that has been done by the committee, particularly its Toronto chapter, to-date. But they asked of me as national chairman of Fair Play something which I myself am certain, and which I am sure you will agree, can not be granted.

What Professors Dewart and McNaught wanted is clearly revealed in the statement of the former to the Toronto Telegram--a constitutional guarantee which would bar from Fair Play Chapter executive posts anyone, who persons unnamed, might consider to be "subversives." "we suggested," the Telegram quotes Professor Dewart as saying, "that all governing officials of the committee should be above reproach in their loyalty to the Queen and Canada's established constitution."

In my opinion we cannot submit in any way to the slightest suggestion that the committee or any persons on the committee do not meet the above standards demanded by Professors Dewart and McNaught or throught them by "some intelligence", unnamed.

The aims of our committee are clear. Its actions even on their admission are above reproach. We have stated before to suggestions that the FPFCC is a July 26 th Movement, Communist Party, Trotskyist, or CCF "front", that it is not a front a pawn, or a tool of anyone or any movement but is open to all who agree with its clearly defined purpose; that the particular views of those supporting it on political questions or any other matters are not the concern of the committee.

As national chairman I have taken for granted that all committee supporters are vigorously opposed to the witch hunt which has so stultified intellectual life on this continent, and which we have had to combat from the word GO to attempt to establish the truth about Cuba. And it is in this belief that I refused to become the instigator of a witch hunt, to launch a hue and cry against and a search for persons who it might be alleged harbor "dangerous thoughts" in the chapters of Fair Play, either in Toronto or elsewhere across the country.

The forces that launched the invasion against Cuba and those who condoned this crime have struck a blow against our committee. This is to be expected. But I am confident that in this testing time that our committee will stand up and work even more effectively to defend the right of self-determination of the Cuban people and to acquaint the Canadian people with the truth about their efforts to establish a better life.

Vernel Olson
Fair Play For Cuba Committee
648 a Yonge Street, Room 10
Toronto.

(Found in 1961)

REPORT TO CHAPTERS OF FAIR PLAY ON DISCUSSION
WITH DR. RAUL ROA, CUBA'S FOREIGN MINISTER

BY V. OLSON, CHAIRMAN

I have just returned from an 18 day trip to Cuba, a report of which will be published separately. However, there are some matters concerning the Committee in Canada which should be reported now.

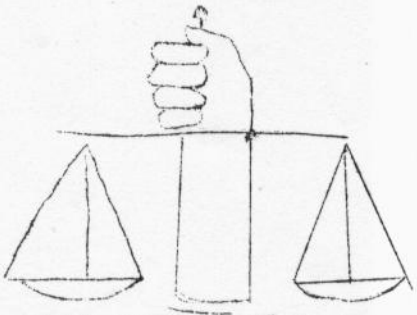
You are no doubt aware that the Canadian FPCC made strenuous efforts to arrange a tour of a large number of Canadians to visit Cuba for the 26th of July celebrations in Havana. While I was in Havana, I wrote a detailed report of our efforts and failures which was delivered to Dr. Raul Roa. Subsequently, an interview was arranged with Dr. Roa where the subject was discussed further. He indicated, during the interview, a great sensitivity to the nature of our problems and promised to take a personal interest in the needs of the Committee. He assured me that the Cuban governmental authorities wished to cooperate fully with our committee and that he was personally aware of the good work which the Committee has done to date. Dr. Roa requested that in the future, all correspondence should be directed to him and not to ICAP (The Cuban Institute For the Friends of All the People). It was ICAP which failed to answer the correspondence of the Committee.

Before leaving Cuba, I drafted a letter to Dr. Roa making a couple of concrete proposals. This letter is now in his hands and we await his reply. A copy of the letter is enclosed for your information. A copy of the letter was also sent to the Cuban Ambassador in Ottawa.

Discussions with many persons in Cuba revealed that the ICAP organization is notorious for its general incompetence and that the treatment accorded our committee was not unique in any way, nor was it a reflection on the status of the Committee in Cuba. I was assured in many important quarters that the FPCC in Canada, as well as in the U.S.A. was well respected in Cuba.

We look forward to a period of greater cooperation between our Committee and the Cuban authorities.

(marked "July 2, 1961")



# AVAILABLE LITERATURE

FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LISTEN YANKEE - C. Wright Mills | $.50 | |
| CASTRO'S SPEECH TO THE UNITED NATIONS | .35 | |
| HISTORY WILL ABSOLVE ME - Castro's Speech to the Cuban Court. | .75 | |
| DECLARATION OF HAVANA | .10 | |
| CUBA - ANATOMY OF A REVOLUTION - Leo Huberman & Paul M. Sweezy | 1.75 | |
| JEAN PAUL SARTRE on CUBA | .50 | |
| ~~CUBA - A DISSENTING REPORT - Samuel Shapiro (Reprinted from the New Republic)~~ | ~~.25~~ | |
| CUBA - VICTIM OR AGGRESSOR? - Report from Havana (Carlton Beals) & The Politics of Sugar (S. Meisler) (an article in the Nation) | .25 | |
| CASTRO'S CUBA - Robert Taber (Reprinted from The Nation) | .25 | |
| REFLECTIONS ON THE CUBAN REVOLUTION - Paul A. Baran (Reprinted from Monthly Review ) | .35 | |
| IDEOLOGY AND REVOLUTION - Jean-Paul Sartre | .20 | |
| CUBA - AMERICA'S LOST PLANTATION - Dave Dellinger | .25 | |
| IMPRESSIONS OF CUBA - Lyle Stuart (Two articles in The Independent) | | |
| LETTER TO THE STUDENTS OF CHILE - Dr. Osvaldo D. Torrado | .20 | English & Spanish |
| CUBA IS A SOVEREIGN STATE - Dr. Osvaldo D. Torrado | .15 | English, French or Spanish |
| INRA BULLETINS - containing many photographs of Cuba | .20 | Spanish |
| OBRA REVOLUCIONARIA | .20 | Spanish |
| CULTURAL BULLETIN - Containing many photographs of Cuba | .20 | Spanish |

# GREETINGS FROM FIDEL

(From a television appearance by Dr. Fidel Castro on July 4th, 1961)

Question: Commandante, we have been speaking of the 26th of July, and I'd like to mention another July anniversary: The 4th of July. Would you like to send a message to the people of the United States, who are being betrayed by the monopolies and the professional war-makers?

**Dr. Castro:** Incidentally, today we recieved some telegrams of support from Northamerican youth groups. I really believe there's beginning to be a response in the United States, among young people, among workers, among the Negro population.

In the first place, I want to send a salute to a very brave group of Northamericans, the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. (Applause.) They are defending the Revolution in the face of hysteria and McCarthyism. They are spreading sympathy for our Revolution, and their Fair Play for Cuba Committees are growing.

And I want to send a salute to the Freedom Riders. (Applause.) They also have the courage to face the racists and [redacted] facists in the United States.

And a salute to the maritime workers and the ships crews who have been carrying on a fierce fight to end the injustice of having Northamerican ships fly the flags of other countries in order to pay their crews starvation wages.

These different movements undoubtably express the uneasiness of the working masses in the United States, and Mr. Kennedy has just used that anti-labor blunder, the facist Taft-Hartly law against them. And the

curious thing is that Mr. Kennedy always spoke of how he had voted against that law, how he had fought that law, and now, at the very first opportunity, he uses it against the workers of the United States.

And a salute to the working class of the United States, a salute to the intellectuals and a salute to the students. We know that there are moral forces, revolutionary forces, healthy and honest forces in the midst of all that hysteria and systematic lying.

Some of the French and Canadian newspapers have recently been making studies of the lies from the wire services and press of the United States; of the way they've completely twisted everything. They say, among other things, thet what they themselves publish doesn't reach the people of the United States.

The people of the United States are very badly decieved; they are the victims of a succession of falsehoods, of lies created by that minority, by that oligarchy which is every day more reactionary, every day more facist, more warlike, more imperialistic, more desperate.

Those oligarchic exploiters show all the symptoms of desperation; that's why they're so dangerous. They're dangerous because they're desperate. They know that history is against them. And they can't possibly win a battle against time. But they are armed madmen; they are dangerous madmen; they are desperate men who have the weapons, the instruments, and the power to do great damage. They are the greatest problem that confronts mankind today.

We have faith that all the warlike, aggressive, reactionary and negative elements in the United States will someday give way to the worthy qualities of the people of the U.S., which are growing stronger every day. It is to the latter that we send a greeting this 4th of July.

Julio 6 de 1961

Dr. Fidel Castro Ruz,
Primer Ministro,
Republica de Cuba.

Honorable Dr. Castro:

En Febrero de 1961 se fundo en el Canada un Comite de Trato Justo para Cuba o sea el F.P.C.C. Despues de los primeros pasos de organizacion y de una serie de sugestiones acerca de la forma mas efectiva en que podiamos trabajar, teniendo en cuenta el interes de beneficiar a Cuba con nuestro trabajo, decidimos que lo mejor que podiamos hacer, era el organizar una excursion a Cuba y de este modo facilitar a los miembros del Comite el ver con sus propios ojos los grandes cambios revolucionarios que han tenido lugar en Cuba. Con esto en mente nos pusimos en contacto con el Sr. Mazola del I.C.A.P. en el mes de Abril, explicandole todos los detalles en relacion con el Tour y los motivos del mismo. Seguidamente recibimos carta del, en la que nos aseguraba que estaba de acuerdo con nuestros planes y luego lo reitero en una conversacion telefonica. El Tour se planeo de modo que todos los miembros del Comite pagarian por sus propios gastos, tambien se le envio una lista con los nombres de veinteyseis Prominentes Canadienses en Politica, quienes han sido instrumental en la organizacion de un nuevo partido politico en este pais, los cuales sugerimos fueran invitados del Gobierno Cubano. El Nuevo Partido, es una nueva idea del Partido Laboral (Social Democratico) celebrara una convencion en Ottawa el 31 de Julio para asi comenzar oficialmente sus labores. Nosotros esperamos influenciar favorablemente este Partido con respecto a Cuba y juzgamos de suma importancia que estos Sres., especialmente los que son prominentes en el Nuevo Partido estuvieran en Cuba para la celebracion del 26 de Julio. Ellos al regresar al Canada y la convencion con la impresion fresca aun de la Cuba Nueva, despues de haber visto por ellos mismos la verdad acerca de Cuba se encontrarian en una posicion excelente de actuar como vocero nuestro en esta convencion.

La actitud del Canada respecto a Cuba, sera grandemente influenciada por el Nuevo Partido y es por eso que juzgamos absolutamente escencial la visita de estos Sres. a Cuba durante esta celebracion del 26 de Julio.

A mediados de Junio despues de no haber tenido noticias de parte del Sr. Mazola acerca del tour, se le paso un -- cable y se trato en cuatro ocasiones de hablar con el por telefono pero ni contesto el cable y se nego a contestar el telefono o a devolver las llamadas. El Sr. Bertrand, Secretario de la Embajada -- Cubana en Ottawa, tambien fue a visitar al Sr. Mazola personalmente en uno de sus viajes a la Habana, nuevamente tratandole de la urgencia de este tour y submitiendole de nuevo la lista con los nombres y direcciones de las personas antes mencionadas. Hasta la fecha no hemos recibido respuesta del Sr. Mazola, y debido a esta irresponsable actitud gran cantidad de dudas se han formado en la mente de los miembros del Comite acerca de la efectividad del mismo. Esta - actitud ha sido un gran golpe para las relaciones Cubano-Canadienses ya que nuestra organizacion cuenta con capitulos en todas las ciudades Canadienses de mayor importancia.

Este dano, opinamos se puede subsanar parcial-- mente si pudieramos saber immediatamente que estas personas en efecto seran invitadas.

Lamentamos el tener que molestarle a Ud. con - estos problemas, ya que estamos conscientes de lo ocupado de su itinerario pero nosotros creemos que este asunto es muy importante para las relaciones Cuba-Canada y sin saber quien es el Superior de Mazola,no nos queda otra alternativa que dirigirnos a Ud.

Sin mas, esperando pueda dar su atencion a este asunto por el bien de Cuba, quedo de Ud.

Respetuosamente,

Mr. V. Olsen
Presidente FPCC

PATRIA O MUERTE

VO:aw

Toronto, Ontario
July 18, 1961

Dear Friend:

The undersigned members of the F.P.C.C. Executive have broken with this organization because they became convinced that it has been diverted from its original purpose.

The resignations of Professors Dewart and McNaught as sponsors were not signs of weakness or defection but a warning that organizations like the F.P.C.C. can be effective only as a non-political organization and absolutely worthless as a front for outside political groups - and this is what happened in our opinion.

We feel that the original purpose of the F.P.C.C. was sound and that some avenue can be found to channel a widely existing fund of goodwill for the aspirations of the Latin-American people. For this reason, we invite you to attend a special meeting to be held:

MONDAY - JULY 24th - 8 p.m. J. Garfinkle's Home
332 HILLHURST BLVD.

(Hillhurst is 9 blocks North of Eglinton, 332 is west of Bathurst)

This meeting, at this time, is intended only as an exploratory one: to seek out the reasons motivating a certain section of the intellectual and liberal public to sympathize and identify itself with the Cuban revolution; to investigate the possibility of encouraging this thinking element to continue its influence on public opinion; to investigate ways and means of disseminating information on Latin-American affairs and to keep such activity on a strictly non-partisan basis.

We hope you will attend and participate in this discussion.

Signed: H. Ackra
J. Garfinkle
W. Roedde
P. Skelton
W. Spira

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE September 4, 1962

VERNEL OLSON, National Chairman of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, said in a statement today, that there exists a grave danger in the immediate period of an American military action against Cuba. Mr. Olson charged that official reports of "attacks" on an American Navy plane were obvious fabrications designed to create a situation where American military action against Cuba could seem justified.

This report of an alleged attack on a navy plane by Cuban gunboats, and President Kennedy's "We Will Shoot Back" statement follows by only a few days hysterical reports by trigger-happy Senators and others in the United States that Cuba is becoming a military threat to the security of the United States.

In the last few days the families of American forces at the Guantanamo Naval Base have been evacuated and a Cuban militiaman has been wounded by rifle fire from the Base. Mr. Olson called on the Canadian people to strongly protest any further moves by the American government to violate the sovereignty of Cuba.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: RO 9-5882

VERNEL OLSON, 21 ELLIS GARDENS, TORONTO

(Found in 1961) Specimen

# Latin America Looks at Cuba

## BERT WAINER

Editor, STUDENT COUNCIL
(Fair Play for Cuba Committe publication.)

TIME: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 8:30 p.m.

PLACE: 297 East 10th Street, Apartment 3A

CONTRIBUTION....99¢

AUSPICES: STUDENT COUNCIL
FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE

BERT WAINER WILL SPEAK IMMEDIATELY UPON RETURN FROM HIS CURRENT TRIP TO LATIN AMERICA, having already made a recent visit to Cuba. This event will launch Bert, who has done extensive lecturing on Cuba and Latin America, upon a national tour of college campuses.

THE TALK WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A DISCUSSION PERIOD & A SWINGING PARTY. Meet your friends and make new ones.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION , CALL : OR 4-8295

EILING KRAMER, M.L.A. (Found in 1961)

# Co-operative Commonwealth Federation

The Battlefords Constituency

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PRESIDENT

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Battlefords Highschool N.D.Y.
1441 - 95 Street
NORTH BATTLEFORD, SASKATCHEWAN

Mr. Robert Horn
c/o Fair Play For Cuba Committee
Box 923, Adelaide St. P.O.,
Toronto, Ontario

Dear Mr. Horn;

Thank you very much for your letter and the material printed by the Fair Play For Cuba Committee. Your compliments concerning the Young Democrat were most encouraging. We realize, however, that we have a long way to go before we can be completely satisfied with our small publication. I shall forward you a copy of our October issue which due to several small difficulties will not be out until at least October 18.

The material published by the FPCC proved very interesting and educational and should be helpful in our efforts to study Cuba and Dr. Castro. Our N.D.Y. club is quite young having being formed this last summer and our opinions on certain topics often vary. Cuba is one of these topics. Personally, I am a firm supporter of Castro and Cuba and due to recent developments my "anti-Americanism" has risen greatly. However some of our associates are a little more to the right than I am. Thus we shall attempt to put both arguments for and against Cuba in our paper. I feel, however, that when our members see the two arguments we shall find more Cuba supporters in our midst. In fact, if our financial situation brightens we may even be able to send the FPCC a donation.

I am not familiar with the "stencil cutting guides" which you mentioned might be helpful to us. I shall inquire locally and if you could forward me further information it would be most appreciated. What we need is some device for making printed headlines. (Possibly the "guides" concern this.)

Yours for social and economic justice,

Brian Cousins

Brian Cousins, Battlefords N.D.Y. President.

(Found in 1961)

# STOP THE ATTACKS ON CUBA

## JOIN PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS IN FRONT OF THE AMERICAN CONSULATE

(UNIVERSITY AVE., NORTH OF QUEEN ST.)

## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23

NOON TO 1 PM AND 5PM TO 9 PM

AT 4 PM
(SPONSORED BY STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO)

LEAFLET PRINTED BY: FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE, BOX 923, ADELAIDE ST. P. O. TORONTO. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION WRITE OR PHONE RO.9-5882

(OVER)

(Found in 1961)

Editor of Student Council

Fair Play for Cuba Committee

publication

# BERT WAINER

to speak at

# Carpenters Hall

169 Gerrard St E

AT SHERBOURNE

# Friday Nov. 17 at 8 PM

Mr. Wainer has lectured widely on Cuban and Latin American affairs, and has just returned from a tour of Central and South America. He has done graduate work in American History at the University of Chicago.

SPONSORED BY FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE
648-A Yonge St., Toronto 1

Refreshments and a social will follow the meeting when Cuban music will be played and recent posters and items from Cuba will be exhibited.

# LATIN AMERICA LOOKS AT CUBA

21 Ellis Gdns.,
Toronto 3, Ont.,
Nov 21, 1961.

Mr. Malcolm Campbell,
434 - 3rd Ave. N.
Saskatoon, Sask.,

Dear Mac:

Thanks for your letter dated Nov. 13 and the enclosed correspondence from the CBC. I have re-checked the news items of the period and the following story unfolds.

The two quotes from our Newsletter were taken from the Toronto Daily Star and an article by Jeremy Brown on Oct 3rd. The quote was from Brown and not from the CBC officials as the FPCC blurb suggests. This was an oversight on the part of the person who wrote the article in our bulletin. We should have stated explicitely where the quote came from. However, I don't think that this changes the situation any, since all the papers here talked openly about the "reasons" as being as we quoted from Brown. A news item in the morning paper of the 4th said "The reason, if you can call it that, is the CBC executive level in Ottawa felt after viewing a print, that it would alienate U.S. viewers, because Cuba's Fidel Castro was seen favorably through the eyes of his people." At no time did the CBC officials make a statement to this effect. But this is as you would expect them to act.

The fact that they now deny what has been said does not mean that the CBC officials have been misrepresented. There can be no doubt whatsoever that the program was cancelled as a result of outside pressure. I am sure that the papers were quite correct in their assesment. They no doubt had inside information. Certainly, the CBC could not admit, publicly, that this was the case. The movie was presenting Cuba through the eyes of the Cuban people and the movie was produced by one of Canada's top artists. The argument about "objectivity" is phoney, in my estimation, and all their protestations about beingmis-represented do not sound very convincing.

The presentation of the views of the Cuban people is of course very dangerous because all the lies about the Cuban people struggling under the whip-lash of a harsh dictatorship would be exposed in one easy lesson.

The CBC wrote to Brown after his column on the 3rd, and I presume they said much the same to him as they said to you. Brown wrote another

wrote another column exposing the arguments of the CBC officials. His arguments were very telling. I will try and obtain a copy and send it to you. So much for that subject.

Work is going ahead here. We have just held another public meeting where Bert Wainer spoke on the subject "Latin America looks at Cuba." The talk was excellent and the meeting good. We are holding a social this week-end and are planning to hold a banquet in the near future. We hope to raise some money at the banquet to help meet the running costs of the Committee.

How are your efforts at organizing a chapter o fthe FPCC? The following person in Saskatoon is quite interested in the Cuba question. He is Peter Worsley, c/o Centre for Community Studies, University of Sask. Possibly you have met him. We would appreciate getting the names and addresses of any one you think might be interested in receiving some of our literature. This might help introduce them to the work of the Committee.

I would suggest that you write to Jack Shapiro, 2804 - 24th, Regina, Sask. I met him when I was on my speaking tour last spring. He has been to Cuba and he spoke to an audience of about 200 people in Saskatoon. He knows a lot of people in that city. If you could get down to Regina to see him, it would be even better. I am sure that he could give you all kinds of names. He was the one who gave me Worsley's name.

The Williams' committee work has been very rewarding. We have already collected about $160, half of which was spent to send out about 2000 bundles of the material you received. The rest has been sent to the New York Committee. We are trying to arrange for a public meeting in Toronto where Conrad Lynn, the defence lawyer, will speak. I am trying to get the meeting sponsored by the social action committee of the Unitarians here. The prospects look good, but we are still awaiting the final word. We should be able to raise a sizeable sum of money at such a meeting.

We have some interesting material for the next NEWSLETTER. A long letter from an American catholic living in Cuba exposes the lie that thousands of Cubans demonstrated against the government a few weeks ago. Watch for the next bulletin.

Best regards,

Vernel Olson,
National Chairman.

21 Ellis Gdns.,
Toronto 3, Ont.,
CANADA,
Nov. 27, 1961.

Secretaria de Relaciones Exteriores,
de la Confederacion de Trabajadores de Cuba,
C. T. C. Revolucionaria,
Habana, Cuba.

Dear Comrades:

It has come to my attention that the C.T.C. Revolucionario is holding an international gathering where labour leaders from various parts of the world will be invited. As National Chairman of the Fair Play For Cuba Committee in Canada, I should like to recommend a few persons from the Canadian Labour Movement who should be invited bythe CTC to visit Cuba during the celebrations which I understand will be held around the first of the year.

Mr. James Gray, 46 Pauline, Toronto, Canada.
Mr. Michel Chartrand, 3 St. Sylvestre, Longueuil, Quebec, Canada
Mr. Jean Marie Bedard, P.O.B. 1745 C.P., Station "B"
Montreal, Quebec, Canada
Mr. Donovan Swailes, 1170 Main St., Winnipeg, Man., Canada
Mr. Orville Braaten, Suite #1, 525 West, Pender St.,
Vancouver 2, B.C., Canada

Mr. Gray is business agent for the Canadian Union of Operating Engineers.

Mr. Chartrand is an organizer for the Printing Trades Union in the province of Quebec.

Mr. Bedard is an International Representative for the International Woodworkers of America.

Mr. Swailes is an executive member of the Canadian Labour Congress, the equivalent of your CTC.

Mr. Braaten is the business agent of a large local of the Pulp and Sulphite Workers Union as well as editor of the provincial paper of the union.

Please let me know your decision on this matter.

Fraternally,

Vernel Olson, National President

FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE (Corrections by R.D.)

December 5, 1961.

For Immediate Release

It is difficult to separate the editorial distortions, whipped up by those whose purpose is clearly to prepare the grounds for another invasion attempt to crush the Cuban peoples' revolution, from the actual news reports of Premier Castro's December 2nd speech.

The UPI dispatch on Premier Castro's 5th anniversary speech (on the 5th anniversary) of the landing which heralded the beginning of the campaign to free Cuba of the Batista dictators has him declaring he had been a "Communist" from early student days, but concealed it. This is a (a) transparent attempt to stamp Cuba as (now) being and (as) having always been a jumping off point and an outpost of the Soviet bloc with which the U.S. State Department is locked in a cold war - to cover up the U.S. economic boycott, which compelled the Cubans to seek aid whereever it was offered, and the CIA engineered counter-revolution (ary) invasion of last spring.

The OAS conference called for January 10th on the heels of these new developments is a part of the plan for a new aggression against the Cuban people.

The Fair Play for Cuba Committee was not created to support Castro or the Cuban United Party of the New Revolution because they were or are Communists, Socialists, Liberal reformers, whether they guide themselves by Marxism-Leninism or some other political-social philosophy.

The committee was formed and has won the support of Canadians from many walks of life because we believe in fair play for Cuba, because we believe that Cubans should be allowed without hindrance from any outside force to shape their own destiny, because we believe that Canada should not be part of the anti Cuba campaign but should carry on mutually beneficial trade with Cubans who are in the process

of an inspiring reconstruction of their economy.

The committee has no intention of being diverted from its original aim or to involve itself in debates as to the relative merits of this or that political philosophy.

We stand by the right of self determination of all peoples - and intend to remain firm on this principle regardless of the course that the Cuban peoples in their own wisdom chose to follow. Any other position in our opinion would be sheer hypocracy.

And we would at this time warn the people of Canada to alert themselves to the developing dangers and to intervene in everyway possible to prevent the new counter revolutionary invasion now being prepared by U.S. imperialist interests. What is being risked here is a Third World War and the atomic destruction of mankind.

Vernal Olson
for
National chairman of Fair Play For Cuba Committee
for further information Phone: RO-9-5882
21 Ellis Gardens, Toronto

21Ellis Gdns.,
Toronto 3, Ont.
Jan. 3, 1962.

Howard R. Pawley,
2-638 Arlington St.,
Winnipeg 10, Man.

Dear Howard:

Thanks for your letter of Oct. 10th. In consulting my unanswered correspondence file I find that I am badly behind. I have had to buy myself a two-drawer file for my home and one drawer is almost full of personal correspondence.

I have had a most hectic but exciting fall. We were just settling down after our Cuba trip when the Robert Williams case broke. Williams and his wife came to us for help after they successfully escaped the U.S. A week later, the RCMP announced that they were looking for him in Canada. They came within an ace of taking him. Only an accidently tip-off saved him. Our house was under close surveillance for almost a months-and we were followed every where we went, at least they tried to keep us in sight. Bob had been in Cuba for about a week when he phoned us. The ears of the snoopers must have burned when they heard his voice on long-distance from Havana. His wife, Mabel, went down a month later and their two boys arrived only about a month ago. This case is now closed.

I still have not heard from Bill Bedwell. I would be most anxious to hear from him since he has never told me what he is thinking. I have never had an opportunity to explain the situation that developed in Fair Play because he did not write me at the time - just a short formal note to say he was withdrawing from the Committee. I have never really been able to forgive Professors Dewart and McNaught for what they did to me personally. By their actions, they labelled me publicly as some kind of a "Trotskyist Front man". When the Committee was formed, I pressed Ken to be chairman as well as other prominent people. They passed the ball back to me and I accepted in order to get things rolling. My public identification with the Cuba Cause did me no good professionally, nor did it help me re-establish my reputation in the eyes of the CCF-NDP leaders here in Ontario. Their actions really amounted to a stab in the back.

I would be interested in hearing from Charlie Bieseck on his experiences and impressions of Cuba. Please ask him to write. I have

been intending to write him myself but things have just not worked out that way.

Events in Cuba in the past few weeks have been very interesting. The press has made much of the line "we told you so", in answer to Fidel's pronouncement that he is now a Marxist-Leninist. The press here carried stories by the UPI which were obviously outright lies. A recent issue of the MILITANT carried extensive quotes from Fidel's speech.

Have you been receiving any copies EL MUNDO? I have received about three or four bundles. They send about a month of publication at one time. I have not received any BOHEMIA's though which I also ordered. We do get some old copies though from the consulate.

I ran across an interesting bit from the August 15th, 1961 issue of Ultima Hora, a Santiago de Chile daily newspaper which published a two-page spread reporting questions and answers in a press interview granted by Che Guevara at the Punta del Este Conference. The question of Trotskyism came up in the following way:

Question: "Can you tell me the reasons for depriving the Trotskyists of Cuba of their means of expression - their press has been confiscated?"

Answer: "The Trotskyist? well, there was a small printing shop that published a weekly which gave us some problems, and we took some administrative meeasures because they did not have any paper nor permission to use paper, or a press, or anything: and, briefly, we resolved that it was not prudent to let Trotskyism to continue to call for subversion. Because, among other things, sir - since you ask me this - it turns out that there is a very interesting antecedent. We have had some relations with the Trotskyists. One of the members of the "26th of July" who was very close to Trotskyism, David Salvador, was the one who caused the death of our people on April 9, by refusing to carry out a united action with the mass parties in the strike and attempted to carry out a strike of a putchist type which was simply destroyed by Batista.

"Naturally, Batista also knew that the strike was going to be carried out because it was a clandestine strike which scarcely got underway and a great number of our comrades were killed.

"After this, Trotskyism was born in Guantanamo City. It is a strange coincidence, but it was born in Guantanamo and has its forces there. Guantanamo is a city only a few minutes from the naval base at Guantanamo, and we suspect that there could be a certain relationship in this 'geographical proximity'. Because of this, we took certain measures since these people who represented nothing and who got their money I we don't know from where, were continuing from extreme leftist positions to interfere with the development of our revolution."

You will recognize in these arguments, the traditional Stalinist slander against Trotskyism. This bit has taken me aback because I have been telling people that I did not think that Guevara was greatly influenced by the Communist Party. As you probably know, Blas Roca, the head of the Cuban CP, is a hardened Stalinist of the worst type. It would appear that the growing dependance of

Cuba upon Soviet aid is having certainly ideological influences upon the thinking of the top leadership. It is still too soon to fully xxxxxxxxx assess the significance of the recent developments but there can be no doubt that the Cuban CP has been riding on the band-wagon to greater and greater influence. I hope that the new party being formed, ORI, will be a broad party, and that it will leave room for the existence of several political tendencies. If the CP influence is too strong, then party democracy will no doubt suffer. This still remains to be seen.

Despite these developments, my basic evaluation of the Cuban revolution has not changed. The hand of the Yanki imperialist must be stayed and the terrible economic and political pressures upon Cuba and her economy must be lessened.

The Committee has tried to stay out of the ideological dispute concerning Cuba. After Castro's announcement on the 1st of Dec. the CBC phoned me up and asked if I or the Committee was disenchanted with Castro and Cuba now. I answered that I believed in the right of self determination for the Cuban people now as I did when the Committee was formed.

So much for that. I recently applied for a NDP membership. Along with my cheque, I wrote a short letter dispelling a few unfounded rumors believed by some on the provincial executive of the party. I also stated that I was not a member of any other political party or of the Trotskyist League for Socialist Action. I stated that I was prepared to abide by the constitution and to accept full responsibility of membership. I received a short simple reply saying that my membership application had been rejected. No reasons were given for the rejection.

We had a successfull meeting with Bert Wainer of the U.S. earlyier this fall. We held a campus meeting as well as a public meeting in the evening. About 25 were at the campus meeting and about 75 at the public meeting. We are going to have a banquet in Toronto on the 27th of this month, and are stiving for 200 people. We need to raise some money for the committee and this seemed like a good way to do the job because there are other equally good results from such an affair.

A new bulletin is in the process of being typed. Also, we have just completed publication of Fidel's 1961 "26th of July Speech". It will sell for 50 cents. We would suggest that your chapter order a bundle for sale in the Winnipeg area. I don't know what the price to the chapters will be but probably 35 or 40 cents.

The constitution which was sent out has been reviewed by the Toronto Chapter and certain amendments have been passed. These will be circulated as soon as possible. If Winnipeg has any ammendments, send them in as soon as possible.

Warmest greetings,

Vernel Olson,

(Found in 1962)

# JOSE MARTI ANNIVERSARY

# BANQUET

Buffet Dinner
Feature Speaker
Entertainment

TICKETS: $2.00

Order thru: FAIR PLAY
OFFICE, 648-A Yonge St. Rm.10
924-6110
8 - 10 PM Monday - Thursday
1 - 4 PM Saturday
or
Vern Olson (Days) at RO 9-5882

Jan. 28, 1853 - May 19, 1895

## Sat. Jan. 27

1129 DUNDAS W
Commences at 6 PM

FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE

# THE CANADIAN FAIR PLAY NEWSLETTER

Published by the Canadian FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE,
Box 923, Adelaide St. P.O.
Toronto, Canada.

VOLUME I NUMBER 3
June 10, 1961

## "CUBAN MIGS' MADE IN U.S.A.

JACK PAAR, a short while ago asked his TV audience how many of them had seen the big headlines SOVIET MIGS FIGHT OFF CUBAN INVASION. Most of the people present held up their hands. Paar continued by asking how many had seen Senator Wayne Morse's statement that the Russian MIGS that the Cuban government used to help thwart the recent Cuban invasion actually were U.S. planes sent by the USA to the old Batista regime. Morse said his Senate investigating sub-committee heard not a bit of evidence that there was a single soviet MIG in Cuba. Jack Paar asked how many people had read this statement. Only a few hands went up.

As Paar pointed out, it seems to be a sad fact that lies make big headlines, but the truth you find on page 25 in very small print. We from the FPCC agree. We don't need a so-called free press. What we need is an HONEST press.

# What CASTRO really said

"Castro Rules Out Elections" were the headlines in most Canadian newspapers the day after Fidel Castro delivered his May Day speech. I searched the fine print in vain to find substantiation for this alarming headline. Actually Castro said nothing about elections that he has not already said many times. "These gentlemen speak of elections. What elections do they want?" he asked. "The false and prostituted elections that represent nothing but the proceedings by which the exploiting classes through their lawyers and their politicians maintain themselves in power, and with that power the whole regime of misery and hunger for the people?"

"There are many pseudo democracies in Latin America. What must be asked is how many laws have been passed in favor of the workers, how many laws in favor of the peasants, where is the agrarian reform, where is the nationalization of the mines, where is the nationalization of industry? This is what should be asked of them. The revolution,"Castro declared, "is the direct expression of the will of the people, not an election every four years, but an election every day, a constant listening for the necessities, a genuine intimacy with the people, a constant meeting with the people, meetings like these....."

"The revolution knows and the people know that the revolution is the expression of its will...The revolution did not come to power with Yankee bazookas, nor with Yankee recoilless cannon; the revolution came to power with the support of the people, by virtue of the sacrifices the people made, the struggles which the people made, the heroism of the people, struggling precisely against Yankee arms, tanks and cannon. Thus the revolution came to power with the whole support of the people."

"Why does democracy have to be the pedantic and false democracy of the dirty politicians and buyers of votes and not a democracy, instead, directly

For Immediate Release - January 28, 1962.

"Why is it that the mighty United States government spends more time and energy harassing tiny Cuba than it does the Soviet Union, even including China?" asked Dr. Americo Cruz, Cuba's ambassador to Canada, of some two hundred Torontonians assembled at a banquet on Saturday evening, January 27th in celebration of the birth and work of the great Cuban revolutionary democrat, Jose Marti. "It's not at all because Cuba is aggressively intervening in the affairs of other American countries, as Mr. Rusk is making out at Punta del Este, but because Cuba has become a symbol to peoples throughout Latin America and elsewhere that they can do something truly great and inspiring against the poverty and decease they have so long suffered".

The Cuban ambassador was introduced to the assembled guests by Mr. Vernel Olson, national chairman of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. The guest speaker of the evening was Mr. Ed Shaw, ..d-West organizer of the U.S. section of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, who had, despite Washington's ban against Americans travelling to Cuba, just returned from a one month tour throughout the island republic. Mr. Olson introduced Mr. Shaw as the man who Senator Dodd of the Senate Internal Security Committee last year labelled, "the worst witness I have ever seen". According to Senator Dodd's line of questioning Fair Play, a national committee dedicated to spread the truth about the Cuban peoples struggle for self determination and a better society, is an agency of foreign power. In the course of his remarks Mr. Shaw related some of the efforts of the American F.P.C.C. to oppose any further intervention of their government against the Cuban peoples' revolution and sketched some vivid scenes of the tremendous achievements of the revolution that he witnessed while on his recent trip.

-30-

for further information -

Vernel Olson,
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RO-9-5882
-or-
Fair Play for Cuba Committee
648A Yonge St. Room 10
9246110

(Found in 1962)

## STOP THE CRIMINAL ATTACKS ON THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA

The Revolutionary Government of Cuba has appealed to the ordinary people of Canada to raise their voices in protest against the criminal plans now under way in the United States to drown the Cuban revolution in blood. The Fair Play For Cuba Committee accepts this appeal and calls upon the Canadian people, through the New Democratic Party, the Trade Union Movement and other organizations to protest in the strongest possible way the imminent preparations for the employment of American Armed Forces against the island Republic of Cuba.

The April 1961 invasion of Cuba, planned, financed and engineered by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency showed that nothing short of the full employment of American Armed Forces can dislodge the popular Revolutionary Government of Cuba. The plans for such action are apparently nearing completion.

The Toronto papers carried the full text of the charges by the U.S. government that Cuban gunboats had allegedly fired on a U.S. navy training plane over international waters. But these same papers carried scarcely a word about the official denials from Cuba. Such acts of "impartiality" are a disservice to the Canadian people. There can be no doubt in the mind of any fair minded Canadian, especially after the 1961 fiasco, that the plane incident was a complete fabrication, in fact, it must be seen as the opening gun in an intensive psychological campaign to prepare the American people for the eventuality of direct U.S. military intervention in Cuba.

The charges by President Kennedy that Cuba is becoming a military threat to Latin America, if not to the U.S., is a consciously perpetrated lie designed to "demand" the intervention of U.S. armed forces. The only threat that Cuba represents is a threat to the super profits wrung from Latin America by the U.S. money interests in Wall Street.

Unable to bolster the corrupt and rotten puppet regimes in Latin America with the almighty dollar, the Wall Street investors fear, more than death itself, the liquidation of their privileged position on the backs of the starving masses of this continent. Over one year of experience with the ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS has shown that nothing short of thorough-going social revolutions in Latin America will solve the terrible problems of the masses of this continent.

Cuba, through the institution of such a thorough-going social revolution, has been able to accomplish in the space of a few years what the millions of South and Central America have been striving to do for a hundred years. This has been done despite the incredible obstacles placed in the way by the U. S. government and the economic interests it represents.

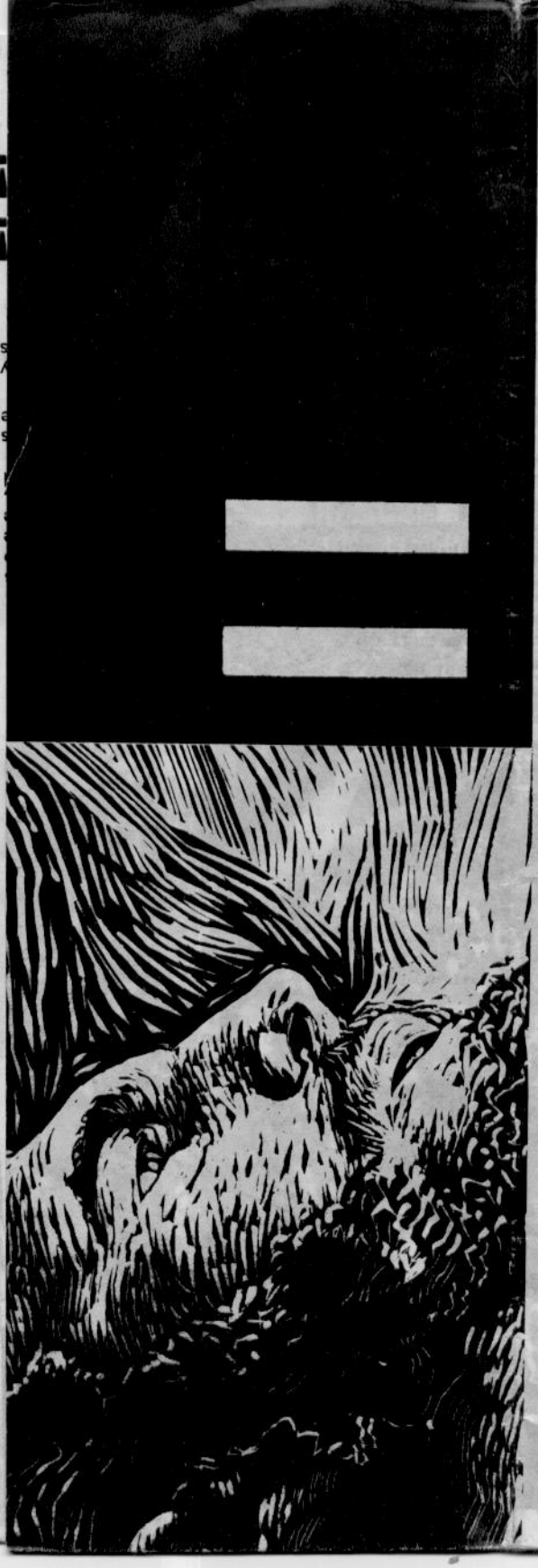
This, and this alone, explains the homicidal frenzy in some quarters of the U.S. who would unleash the military power of the mighty United States without so much as a pretext.

The struggle of the Cuban people in defence of their revolution is also the struggle of the ordinary people of Canada. If the government of the United States succeeds in its attempts to drown the Cuban Revolution in blood, a long period of brutal reaction will be opened up on this continent if we are spared, for a time, from the possibility of nuclear war.

ACT NOW AND ACT DECISIVELY!

—— Raise this important question in your union.
—— Act through your New Democratic Party Club.
—— Act where ever you can, but ACT.
—— Join the Fair Play For Cuba Committee.

Published by FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE
Box 923, Adelaide St. P.O.
V. OLSON, CHAIRMAN Toronto.



# II

# FROM THE PEOPLE OF CUBA TO THE PEOPLES OF AMERICA AND OF THE WORLD

ON the eve of his death, in a letter he never finished because a Spanish bullet pierced his heart, José Martí, apostle of our independence, wrote his friend Manuel Mercado on May 18, 1895: "Now I can write... Each day I am in danger of giving my life for my country and for my duty... to halt in due time, as Cuba acquires its independence, the spread of the United States over the Antilles so as to descend, with that added strength, upon our lands of the Americas. Whatever I did until today and will do in the future, is for that... The same minor and public obligations of the nations most vitally interested in preventing the opening in Cuba, through its annexation by the imperialists, of the road that must be barred, and which we are barring with our blood, of annexation of all the nations of our America, by the violent and brutal North which despises us, the same obligations have prevented the clear support and definite help for the sacrifice that is being made for the immediate good and for them. I have lived in the monster and I know its entrails; and mine is the sling of David".

Martí, as far back as 1895, pointed to the danger hanging over America and called imperialism by its name: imperialism. He warned the peoples of America that they, more than anyone, were obligated that Cuba not yield to the greed of the Yankee who despised the peoples of Latin America. With his own blood, shed for Cuba and for America, he endorsed the posthumous words which today the people of Cuba endorse at the beginning of this Declaration, as homage to his memory.

Sixty-seven years passed. Puerto Rico was converted into a colony and still is a colony filled with military bases. Cuba also fell into

# keep lines clear

On two recent occasions the Secretary of State of the United States has 'invited' Canada to join that nation in bringing Cuba to heel by economic sanctions, and has openly criticized the Canadian government's announced policy of maintaining diplomatic relations and trade in non-strategic goods with the Castro regime.

In thus questioning Canada's right to decide her own policy, Mr. Rusk was merely reasserting the United States' historical claim of hegemony over the Western hemisphere by virtue of her manifest destiny. But this claim, enforced in the recent past by force of arms and other none too subtle means, is outmoded in an era in which old-fashioned imperialism has become the bete-noire of the impoverished majority of the world's peoples, and is now the source the US's present difficulties in Latin America.

Despite the recent expulsion of Cuba from the organisation of American States, the just ended OAS meeting at Punta De Este must be regarded as another failure for the Latin American policy of the United States. Despite impassioned pleas from Mr. Rusk, the Conference refused to impose economic sanctions, and gave little moral support to the expulsion.

The six abstentions on the vote for Cuba's expulsion, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Equador, and Mexico, included the four largest and most populous Latin American states, and the only countries which have made any effort to deal with the staggering economic and social problems for which Fidel Castro has offered a radical solution. These are the nations whose support and cooperation are essential if President Kennedy's "alliance for progress" is to be a real alternative. Beside their opposition, the support given by the comic-opera puppet states of Central America pales into insignificance.

Assisted by Dr. Castro's open espousal of Marxist Leninism, a demonstration of candor hardly to expected in the circumstances from a true Marxist, the United States had been slowly retreiving the trust destroyed by last spring's abortive invasion. Secretary Rusk's inflexibility and economic threats toward the members of OAS have destroyed these gains. When such a moderate and respected statesman as President Frondizi of Argentina speaks of "international reactionaries" having made a mockery of the OAS, the situation is indeed grave.

In these circumstances Canada must maintain her existing lines of communication with Cuba and the rest of Latin America while attempting to influence the United States in the direction of moderation and realism. So long as the United States views the OAS as simply an instrument of American policy, however, Canada's active participation in the organization is out of the question.

LOCAL 444 NEWS
Published by Local 444, U.A.W.-C.I.O.
36 Wyandotte St. East — Windsor, Ontario
EDITORIAL BOARD
CHARLES BROOKS
NELSON DEARING EDWARD BAILLARGEON
SAM ARONOFF GEORGE BARNETT
Maple Leaf Press 1068 Erie St. East

EDITORIAL

# The Influence of U.S. Domination

Recently Tommy Douglas, New Democratic Party leader, stated that three-fifths of Canada's wealth was owned by a small clique of giant monopolies.

This, of course, (and the fact that they are mainly U.S. owned) is not news to those who observing the trend in Canadian politics since the end of the 2nd World War, have viewed with justified concern the steady increase of U.S. ownership over Canadian raw materials and industry.

**Local 444, which keeps abreast of these important affairs, laid it on the line in the Brief which our Local submitted to the Bladen Royal Commission in 1960. We stated flatly that the root problems in the automobile and auto parts industries stemmed directly from policies initiated by the St. Laurent Government (and continued by the Conservatives) which permitted and encouraged the take-over of Canada's wealth by U.S. Big Business.**

It is an established fact that no other modern industrialized country in the world suffers so much from foreign economic control as does Canada.

The important point to note here is that with economic domination, political domination is close behind.

Canada's "me-too" attitude on important issues at the U.N. was a good example of Canadian subservience to U.S. policies. Seldom did Canada have an independent policy.

U.S. interference with the projected sale of 1,000 Ford of Canada trucks to China made headlines at the time—but the U.S. policy prevailed. China's requirements were promptly met by British and West German manufacturers.

**There are now straws in the wind that the U.S. is about to exert further pressure on an area where, for a change, the Canadian government has, up to now, stood firm.**

The Kennedy Administration is anxious that Canada fall in line with its anti-Cuban policies. In this regard we quote from our files some scoring points made in a Globe & Mail editorial, May 3rd, 1961, entitled "Doctrine of Disaster", and which are particularly in tune today:

Commenting on the "Kennedy Doctrine" which apparently forbids countries to have governments with which the U.S. disagrees, the editorial warns that "the Kennedy Doctrine could be construed as a warning to conform to U.S. political and economic policies—or else."

This, the article continues, is no idle threat.

". . . Secretary of State Rusk has admitted officially what the world has long known unofficially: that the U.S. armed, trained and financed the anti-Castro exiles who invaded Cuba."

Pointing out that the Kennedy Doctrine presumably includes Canada the Globe statement declares **,"In this situation, the Canadian Government has a duty to make its own position clear—that we will not join the Organization of American States . . . We should make it equally clear that we will not accept any U.S. dictation in our internal affairs or our foreign policy."**

All aspects of Canadian life are affected by the massive scale of U.S. ownership and control.

Our present negotiations with the Chrysler Corporation are influenced by and made more difficult and complex by contract patterns established between the U.S. unions and the U.S. companies.

The Company's flouting of Canadian Government import laws has led to a deterioration of employment in our engine plant with subsequent layoffs.

Local 444 has consistently opposed the policy of our Canadian International representatives which calls for the further integration of the U.S. and Canadian auto industries.

Events are substantiating our position. Less, not more, integration is called for.

**A Canadian policy, in the interests of Canadians, and having as its foundation a fight for Canadian political and economic independence is the way forward to increased security and prosperity.**

## Flivver Her From This Fate

DETROIT.—If Henry Ford II's daughter, Ann, worked for the $10 a week wage paid to car-hops at the Big Boy Drive-In chain here she would have to live to the age of 514 years to pay the bill for her recent "coming-out" party, it was charged here.

Myra Wolfgang, international representative of Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union, gave delegates to the Wayne County AFL-CIO convention this statistical comparison of the $280,000 one-night party for the 18-year-old Ford heiress and the $10 a week paid to 18-year-old car-hops.

Delegates voted full support to Hotel & Restaurant Union in its drive to organize the Drive-in chain.

LETTER TO DIEFENBAKER

# Canada Must Stand Firm On Trade With Cuba

The Executive Board of our Local has sent the following letter to Prime Minister Diefenbaker concerning our country's relations with the Government of Cuba:

"Rt. Hon. John Diefenbaker,
"Prime Minister of Canada.

"Dear Sir:—

"It is the policy of this Local Union to commend all measures, both at home and abroad, which indicate that Canada is pursuing policies which strengthen her independence in international affairs.

"In this regard we are appreciative of the fact that your Government is assuming an independent position in its relations with the Government of Cuba.

"In the opinion of this Executive Board, the continuation of normal relations with Cuba is most desirable as well as beneficial to our nation.

"Together with the principle involved around the need for Canada to have an independent role in its associations with other countries, we recognize that good trade relations are vitally important in our struggle for full employment.

"We strongly disagree with the views expressed by the Hon. Paul Martin (M.P., Essex East) on this matter, as reported in the Press.

"Apparently, among the items sold to Cuba which Mr. Martin would halt, are automotive engines and motor vehicles.

"This is particularly distressing to us in view of the unemployment currently plaguing automobile workers in this area. We may add that a copy of this letter will be made available to Mr. Martin.

"We are aware that the Canadian Government will come under increasing pressure from United States sources which advocate review and change in our policies vis a vis Cuba.

"We trust that your Government will continue its present policy on Cuba and will not reverse its stand under pressure from either outside forces or on the basis of arguments presented by members of the Opposition.

"Respectfully,
"LOCAL 444, U.A.W."

**Ed. Note: The record of the Liberal Party in "standing up" to U.S. pressure becomes very clear when we recall how the 1,000 trucks to China deal by Ford of Canada was callously stymied by the U.S. State Dept.**

**REMEMBER!!**
**TONIGHT**
## Feb. 14th Is the Date
**of**
**NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY**
**ESSEX WEST CONVENTION**
To choose a candidate for the
ESSEX WEST RIDING
**At Assumption High School, Huron Line, at 8 P.M.**

SOCREDS FEAR NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY

## B. C. Labour Hits Back at Social Credit

**In British Columbia the Socreds have passed legislation forbidding the use of any porition of union dues for political action.**

**This was geared to stymie workers contributing to the New Democratic Party.**

**Response of the 115,000 member B.C. Federation of Labour (CLC) and the Vancouver Labour Council (CLC) was fast. They immediately called upon their members to enclose a card with their electric and telephone bills requesting deduction of a nickel from their accounts.**

**The union members claim that both Corporations are supporting the Social Credit Party financially.**

## "FIRST FIRED" . . .

A recent survey by the U.S. National Urban League reveals that unemployment has hit the Negro more than twice as hard as the general population.

Figures show that in Cleveland, 20% of the Negro work force is out of work as compared to 6.3% of the general work force.

In Detroit, hard-hit by Auto layoffs, it is 39% as compared to 13%. Other figures are: St. Louis: 20 - 8.4%, Chicago: 17.3 - 5.7%, Louisville: 39.8 - 8.3%, and Wichita: 24 - 6.1%.

### OBITUARY

We are sorry to report that the following members have passed away since the last issue of our paper:

| | |
|---|---|
| Knud Neilsen | Plant 1 |
| Charles Mawhinney | Dept. 9024 |
| Camille Garant | Dept. 9072 |
| Eugene Lawson | Dept. 9071 |

LABOR at home and abroad

NO THANKS FROM COMPANY

## $4,000 Compensation Won by Union

HAMILTON.—Over $4,000 has been awarded Syd Gilvear, Local 504, UE, by Workmen's Compensation as a result of the effective work of the Local's compensation committee which is chaired by Roy Carless.

Syd met with an accident on the job at Westinghouse which has resulted in almost total loss of vision. At the time he was a foreman. No compensation was paid.

When he was returned to the bargaining unit the compensation committee took an active interest in the case.

As a result of re-opening the case a two-day session was scheduled to hear the union's representations.

The result of the hearings thus far, Roy reports, is payment by the Compensation Board of an amount in excess of $4,000 to cover initial outlay expenses.

Still outstanding is a final decision on the matter of a pension.

The compensation committee has made it known that it intends to keep working on this case until every possible area of justice has been achieved.

## 'Polaris Sub Base Must Go'—Unions

ROTHESAY, Scotland.—Complete removal of USA polaris submarine bases from Britain has been overwhelmingly demanded by the Scottish Trade Union Congress.

Meeting in conference here, the Congress also called for permanent cessation of the manufacture and testing of nuclear weapons.

Alex Kitson, on behalf of the general council, made it clear that the demand for the removal of bases did not mean just moving from the present site at Holy Loch to another remote part of Britain.

## FORD LOCAL BACKS STEEL

DEARBORN, Mich.—General Council delegates of Ford Local 600 of the UAW unanimously passed a resolution backing the Steelworkers in their coming negotiations for a 32-hour work week at 40-hour pay. The resolution also backed the N.Y. electrical workers' struggle.

**Ed. Note:** All workers support the Steelworkers in their fight for a 30-hour week.

## 20 Million Widows In U.S.S.R.

WASHINGTON.—The population Reference Bureau Inc. says that, because of losses suffered in World War 2, Russia has "probably the largest proportion of widows in any country in the world."

Beyond the age of 32, Russian women outnumber men by 20 million. This helps explain why there are so many women in the Russian labour force.

The independent agency estimated that World War 2 cost the Soviet Union about 45 million persons in direct and indirect losses. In contrast, U.S. wartime losses totalled about 300,000.

Also, the report said that high infant and child deaths during the war has caused a high deficit of boys and girls between 10 and 19 years old.

# Local's Protest Aired in Ottawa

The results of the efforts of our rank and file Committee to Protect Canadian Jobs are now beginning to show. Their program has carried our protest to the highest office in the land and is now an issue on the floor of the Canadian Parliament.

Our issue was raised by Paul Martin, M.P. (Liberal) and Hazen Argue, M.P. (New Party), following our meetings here at home. It has now been answered by the Prime Minister, who also acknowledged our demand that no equipment or machines be transferred from Canadian plants to other countries.

Although there was no announcement by the federal government as to what action is being taken, we have got the wheels turning on our program to protect our people's jobs.

By raising our voice at the highest level we can focus attention on the need for more Canadian independence and greater security for Canadian workers. Under the Bladen proposals of integration, the small suppliers will go out of business instead of expanding.

Meetings, leaflets and your plant gate collections have paid off in making our problem known at the top level.

The program was carried out by the Plant Two members: Trev Brown, Leo Hayes, Ray Marentette, Geo. Perks, Bob Williamson, Art Williams, Ralph Gould and Noe Pracey; Larry Fortier and other interested members, including your Plant Chairman and Local Union President and Vice-President.

### RETIRED

The following members have retired since the last issue of our paper:

| | |
|---|---|
| Ross Lypps | Dept. 9356 |
| Anton Remsing | Dept. 9077 |

# ALBERTA

(Alberta CCF Provincial Office—10140 - 107 St., Edmonton)

# Latin America's Need Is For Social Justice

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## Attacking Communism Won't Solve The Problem!

It is refreshing to read the words of someone who has the knowledge and the courage to tell the truth about conditions in Latin America. Father Albert Nevins, president of the Catholic Press Association, following a visit to Latin America, has set forth in a Catholic publication, "Our Sunday Visitor", February 11, his own observation of the unbelievable poverty of the masses of Latin America. Below is an excerpt from his article.

Cuba is a microcosm for all of Latin America. What happened there could happen in almost any country of Latin America for the same social and economic forces that underlay the Cuban revolution are present throughout the Southern hemisphere.

The Greatest need in Latin America today is one for social justice. This is revealed in the need for a more equitable distribution of land and better use of the land that exists. Half the farm land of Latin America exists as large estates of 15,000 acres or more, controlled by about five per cent of the population. The rest of the land is divided into parcels so small that few families can subsist on them. This latter land is also of the poorest type.

"Land to him who tills it!" has become the rallying cry throughout the hemisphere. It was his promise of land reform that brought Fidel Castro to power . . .

However, breaking up the big estates is not the answer in itself. A few acres to each family is hardly enough to live on. With land reform must come a broad social program — extension services, more intensive farming methods, co-operatives and credit unions. The land itself must be restored since the soil is exhausted from centuries of abuse and widescale erosion.

### FROM BAD TO WORSE

Because conditions in the provinces have become so bad, a phenomenon has developed in many of the major cities of Latin America in recent years. In Caracas, Bogota, Lima, La Paz, Santiago, Rio de Janeiro, Port-au-Prince, or Guatemala City, the visitor who seeks can find the most terrible slums that exist anywhere in the world. The grinding and degrading poverty that is on every side is unbelievable to anyone who has not seen it for himself.

In 1948 there were 14 slum areas adjoining Lima. They were hard to find because the city is large and most of them were behind high walls. In 1960 Lima had 157 slum areas with more than 300,000 people, and these are more readily visible.

Early this year some friends and myself visited one of these Lima slum areas. This particular barriada was built on a garbage dump, and every day new houses went up as more refuse was deposited. The word "house" is misleading since the buildings are really shacks made of bits of wood, tin and straw matting. They are pushed one against another, windowless, dark, unsanitary, as many as 14 people are often crowded in a small room.

In the rutted alleys that are either seas of mud or clouds of dust, dirty and half naked children play. Long lines of women and girls, holding tin cans, stand to wait their turn at the solitary spigot of water that serves tens of thousands of people. The filth, odors, human degradation are a scandal to the non-Christian world, and a social injustice crying to heaven for vengeance.

These conditions of Lima are repeated in almost any big city of Latin America. The modern and chromed buildings of Caracas shadow the hovels of the poor. On the hillsides of Rio de Janeiro, the favaelas of the landless look down on the rich at play on Copacabana Beach.

### UNFED AND UNEDUCATED

The country people drift to the city in the hope of finding some improvement to their hard lot. There is no work in the countryside; land is depleted, small industries vanished. Medical and educational facilities are few. The people come to the city with a dream of a better life but find their new condition worse than the former. Trapped, there is nothing left but for them to endure. The great wonder is how their patience can be so long-suffering.

It is readily understandable that, when someone comes along and promises them a life better than that of an animal, they are ready to follow. Even when work is found, average annual income is seldom more than $200. This writer was told of an instance in one large city where Indian workers were paid a daily wage of one-fifth of a cent, plus a drink of rum and a handful of coca leaves (from which cocaine is derived).

With such poverty the lot of the masses of Latin America, it is apparent why health is deficient. Malnutrition becomes the foundation for many other diseases. Families can be found subsisting on tea for breakfast, soup for noon, and tea again at night. Half the deaths in most countries are of children under four years of age, one-fourth under one year. More than half the people die without any medical attention whatsoever. Figures for the incidence of tuberculosis run from 10 to 30 per cent.

Because of the lack of education, the people are not able to help themselves. Illiteracy in some countries runs as high as 65 per cent. There are few organized governmental campaigns against illiteracy. In most countries education is supposed to be compulsory but a high percentage of children do not go to school, sometimes because they are needed to supplement the family income, sometimes because schools and teachers are not available. The situation is particularly acute in rural and mountainous regions.

Ready to take advantage of these conditions is a hard and dedicated nucleus of Communists in every country. The Communists in Latin America have a tremendously well-organized underground directorate. Their strength is among the intellectual, students and peasants. From time to time they test that strength by calling strikes or provoking riots, and these tests prove that they can create chaos at will. It does no good to arrest the Communists if the conditions on which they feed remain.

The take-over in Cuba is a pattern of what could happen in many other Latin American nations tomorrow. Cuba was the fourth ranking country economically in Latin America. Its people were relatively well off compared to other nations. Yet when Castro promised the Cubans a chance to fill their stomachs and achieve their aspirations, the masses of Cuban people readily bought the opportunity.

The Cuban refugees who flooded the United States were the well fed — the middle class and the wealthy. They were also the "good" Catholics. Their blindness to social injustice was their own undoing. In this blindness they believed all Cubans would remain loyal to the Church and rise up against Castro at the first opportunity. They influenced the thinking of our own Government. The disastrous invasion attempt resulted and proved that the masses the peasantry, were with Castro.

## GINGER by William Irvine

In my last article I had under review the preface and introduction to the Canadian Chamber of Commerce pamphlet entitled, "Fallacies of Socialism." "CCC" will be used hereafter for Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

In replying now to the first chapter of that publication I shall follow the order of presentation adopted by the author. I find it necessary to explain this because the pamphlet lacks logical order and statements are made without a single fact to support them. The method suggests that the reader is supposed to swallow the statements without question. The author is like Liza, jumping from one disconnected block of ice to another.

The heading of the first chapter is "The True Purpose of Taxation Is to Redistribute the Wealth." This erroneous declaration is assumed to be a tenet of socialism. Needless to say, no socialist party is so ill-informed as to regard such a statement as a definition of taxation.

The CCC finds it easier to discredit socialism by claiming that it is something other than it really is and then to attack the straw man of their own creation.

Having put a false tag on socialism the author then goes on to brand it as "Robin Hood" eco-

★

Living costs in four of 12 Canadian cities under survey rose between November and December, the bureau of statistics reported. Costs dropped in five and were unchanged in three. St. John's, Nfld., Montreal, Calgary and Edmonton all showed increases.

The Commonwealth
Phone LA 2-3293
1630 Quebec Street
Regina - Saskatchewan

Published Every Wednesday
by
THE CCF PUBLISHING & PRINTING CO. LTD.

FEBRUARY 7, 1962

# What Does Kennedy Want Cuba To Do?

By CHAS. BIESICK

Cuba happens to be only 90 miles from the United States and there is nothing anyone can do about it.

As things stand the US has vowed it will not tolerate within 90 miles of its borders a country which it regards as Communist. The Cuban retort to this arrogant and unreasonable stand is contained in posters which I saw in every part of Cuba saying: "If the Yankees don't like to live within 90 miles of a socialist country they can move away."

Unfortunately the US cannot move away and Cuba is not a floating island either: it cannot be towed beyond the 90 mile limit to a more distant point where the US might be willing to tolerate a country which it has branded "Red." The facts of geography decree that both these countries must remain neighbors. What is within the power of the two countries to decide is whether to remain unfriendly, bitterly hostile neighbors, or become friendly and co-operative neighbors.

The cause of the rupture between the two countries was the US government's intransigent opposition to the economic reforms carried out by the Cuban revolutionary government. According to international law and custom one country is not supposed to interfere in the domestic affairs of another country, but the US regards itself as a privileged country — a nation not to be bound by this bit of international etiquette.

## REFORMS WITHOUT LABELS

With the tolerance and friendly co-operation of the US the new Cuban regime could have carried out its economic reforms without seeking the aid of the Communist nations. Without such co-operation from the US it had no other alternative but to turn to the Communist countries and thus become labeled "Red" by the US state department.

Let us get away for a moment from the cold war prattle about names and labels. Since the words Communist, Marxist, Red or Socialist arouse all sorts of emotions let us consider Cuba's economic reforms without any ideological labels.

On my return from Cuba last I made a few speeches in which I praised the present government for its efforts to improve the living conditions of its people. I said it didn't particularly matter what label we pinned onto the Castro regime, the reforms it was carrying out were good — they were long overdue economic changes which should have been carried out by any decent government.

In spite of the US attitude toward Cuba President Kennedy also professes to favor economic reforms. In fact in the speeches he made in the Latin American countries last fall he sounded like an English-speaking Fidel Castro. In Bogota multi-millionaire Kennedy warned "the wealthy few" they had better do something to end poverty in their countries. He asked the wealthy Latin Americans to join him in "a revolutionary task" that of improving the living standards of all the people of Latin America — all except Cuba of course.

## WHAT KIND OF REFORMS?

This raises the question: Assuming President Kennedy is sincere in his advocacy of reforms for Latin America, why is he so bitterly opposed to the economic reforms being carried out in Cuba? What kind of reforms has he in mind? What kind of economic reforms is the US willing to permit the Latin American countries to carry out?

In his speech in Bogota, Mr. Kennedy stressed the need for land reform. Another prominent US visitor to Latin America, Justice William O. Douglas, pointed out that one of the worst evils of Latin America is the feudal ownership of the land. "A few families often own an entire country," said Mr. Douglas, "and most of the wealth." On the other hand great masses of the people live on the barest kind of subsistence. Tourists who ventured beyond Havana used to be shocked at the deplorable living conditions of the Cuban peasantry. Perhaps the outstanding achievements of the new Cuban regime are the agrarian reforms to improve life for the campesinos.

The agrarian reforms in Cuba ended feudalism. The big estates were taken over and turned into state or co-operative farms. Over 100,000 peasants were also given free land and financial assistance to enable them to get established on individual farms of their own. Crops have been diversified. Waste land has been put to productive use. The campsinos who used to work for miserable wages four months a year, during the sugar harvest, and then subsist on a near starvation basis in between harvests, now have year round employment. Food production has been increased and the diet of the people is being improved. A vast rural housing program is under way. Thousands of peasant families have already moved out of their primitive hovels called

please turn over

"bohios" into modern four and five room houses.

I visited a number of these housing developments in the beautiful Pinar del Rio province. The women have already put pretty curtains in the windows and planted flowers around their new homes. These humble people may not have the faintest idea what Communism or Socialism is but they know their new modern homes are heaven compared to the miserable hovels they lived in before.

**IN CUBA FULL SPEED AHEAD**

The impressive thing about the Cuban reforms is their scope and tempo. Not only are they aiming at a complete change of the economy from a feudal-capitalist to a socialist society, but they are moving ahead on all fronts at break-neck speed. Both in the rural as well as urban areas vast building projects are underway — houses, schools, hospitals, stadiums, new holiday resorts, childrens playgrounds. The lavish tourist resorts and the exclusive clubs of the rich have had their doors opened wide for the ordinary citizens of Cuba. Under the urban reform law housing has been taken over by the government. The former owners are being compensated — and in my view well compensated — for their properties. Rents have been cut in half. Many new industries have been established and many more are in the planning stage. The unemployed are being put to work.

Cuba still has many problems to overcome. Not everybody is happy about the revolution. In a revolution a lot of people become suddenly uprooted. The wealthy are unhappy because they have lost some of their wealth and privileged position. A humble pushcart peddlar may complain because of the absence of US tourists who used to buy his souvenirs and trinkets. But I think even the most biased visitor who has spent some time in the country, and met a fair cross section of the people, would say the present regime has the solid support of the majority of the people.

**WHAT'S WRONG WITH CUBA'S REFORMS?**

Last year was termed "The Year of Education" in Cuba. Over 30 per cent of the Cuban population were illiterate — almost the entire rural population. It was an exhilarating experience to note the determined drive being made to wipe out illiteracy — not in ten or twenty years, but in one year. Not only is every Cuban child for the first time in the country's history assured of an education, but every illiterate adult capable of learning is given the opportunity to do so.

Consider all these reforms and ask yourself: what is wrong with them? Why is the US government so determined to halt and obstruct these reforms by every means possible — even supporting the ill-fated invasion last spring? Why did the US call a meeting of the OAS at Punta del Este for the sole purpose of discussing ways and means to hamper Cuba's economic progress? If the US and some of the Latin American governments don't like the kind of economic reforms being carried out in Cuba why don't they devote their energies to carrying out the kind of reforms which they favor — if any? Why not go full steam ahead with The Alliance for Progress proposals and leave Cuba alone?

In Bogota President Kennedy said he favors land reform. What does he find wrong with the land reforms in Cuba? How else can you improve life for the peasants except by providing opportunities for them to make a decent living? Mr. Kennedy is in favor of improving the deplorable housing conditions for the people of Latin America. What is wrong with the slum clearance and housing developments in Cuba? Mr. Kennnedy professes to favor wiping out illiteracy? What other ways are there of wiping out illiteracy besides educating people?

Apart from my own observations during a brief visit I have read just about everything I can lay my hands on about Cuba from Left to Right — including the Miami Herald and Time magazine. There is a torrent of anti-Castro propaganda but actually very little criticism of the reforms being carried out. Even those who hate every hair in Castro's beard find very little to criticize in the economic changes he has brought about — except that it has hurt the bank accounts of a few millionaires.

**NO FREE ELECTIONS!**

President Kennedy himself said he is not opposed to the economic reforms in Cuba. His quarrel with Cuba, he said, is the fact that the Castro regime has held no free elections. But this statement has such an obvious hollow ring few can take it seriously. In Cuba such a statement is met with scorn. It is a well known fact the US is on the friendliest terms with any number of countries where no free elections have been held. Some Cubans will ask you why don't they have free elections in the United States? A young man who had acted as my interpreter among a group of Cubans had lived in the US for several years. "How," he asked, "can they say they have free elections in the US when thousands of Negroes are denied the right to vote?"

Another question I was frequently asked by Cubans was: why doesn't the US government allow its citizens to visit Cuba? What are they afraid of? What kind of a free country is it which denies its citizens the right to travel where they want?

I don't know how President Kennedy would have answered these questions. I didn't try to answer them. I am only too well aware of the limitations of freedom in many parts of the "free world." The US is unfortunately not nearly as free as it should be. Besides it has an established reputation as an implacable foe of economic change — particularly when such changes affect the fortunes of US investors.

There is a revolutionary upsurge in Latin America, as in many other parts of the world. The impoverished people are determined to improve their condition. Yet it is difficult for them to bring about economic improvements or reforms without stepping on the tender toes of US investors. Since the economies of these countries are dominated by US interests to the same degree as was the case in Cuba they may eventually follow the same path as Cuba. One sure way of gaining control of their foreign-dominated industries and resources is through nationalization.

With an enlightened attitude, tolerance and goodwill the US can help these countries toward economic progress. But if the US persists with its unreasonable and irrational policies, as in Cuba, its role in Latin America may eventually be limited to sticking the "Red" label on a whole string of Latin American countries.

reproduced by the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, 648a Yonge St.,R.10,Toronto

FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE

amis du peuple cubain

648 A yonge St.
Toronto 5

Dr. Americo Cruz
Embassy of Cuba
85 Range Rd.
ottawa, Ont.

February 12, 1962

Dear Dr. Cruz,

I wish to thank you for visiting our banquet.Your speech added to the enjoyment of the guests and gave us something to think about.

The executive of the Toronto Chapter of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee has expressed a desire to begin planning a 26th of July celebration. We felt that it was unfortunate we did not plan one last year but we shall make up for it this year, providing it remains possible to do so and the political situation between Cuba and Canada remains basically the same.

We intend to have a massive program celebrating the 26th of July in Massey Hall which holds about 3000 people. A famous big name artist or artists like Pete Seeger or Malcom Troup will be brought in to perform as part of the program and we would like the central part of the program to be a Cuban speaker. We are certain that this affair will attract many hundred people and that it would be a tremendous demonstration of the solidarity of the Cuban and Canadian people.

Would you please give us your opinion and suggestions concerning a speaker. Would it be possible to get someone from the Ministry in Cuba?

Thank you,Venceremos

Robert Horn, President Toronto F.P.

21 Ellis Gdns.,
Toronto 3, Ont.
Feb. 25, 1962.

Gabriel Glazer,
5850 Souart St. #14,
Montreal 26, Quebec.

Dear Gabe:

Thanks for your letter of the 7th of Jan., but sorry for the long delay in answering. I have been going through an agonizing period and as a result, my ulcer has been acting up again. I have had two haemorrhages in the past three and a half years so I have to watch myself. So much for that.

I have obtained a copy of New Politics and have read the four contributions on the Cuba story. I found the contribution by Sam Bottone somewhat disturbing at first and had to sit back and reflect for several days, before I could reorient myself again. I know that it is easy to get alarmed about certain aspects of the Cuban development. It is easy, for example, to draw a parallel between the Eastern satellite countries and Cuba in respect to the formation of the ORI. One important difference exists which I hope will be decisive: that is the fact that in East Germany, for example, the state apparatus was in the hands of the C.P. and was backed up by the Red Army, where as in Cuba, the control has been, from the very beginning, in the hands of the Fidelistas, who, it must be remembered, have a non-Stalinist, if not anti-Stalinist background.

In E. Germany, the C.P. merged with the right wing Social Democrats in a non-revolutionary period. The rank and file of the labor movement had been put in its place by the discipline of the party and the Red Army. In Cuba, on the other hand, a revolutionary leadership in a very revolutionary situation, have merged with the more right wing PSP. It is true that the PSP has more organizational know-how and can take advantage of the this period of relative calm to increase their administrative hold. The increasing dependence of Cuba upon the Soviet bloc will greatly assist this development, but the final outcome depends upon many factors as yet unresolved.

I do think that Bottone's comments on economic vs political democracy tend to see the problem as Stalinism, with all its distastefulnes, vs bourgois forms of political democracy. I would agree wholeheartedly with the contention that the necessary forms for political democracy have not been established but not in the way that the opponents of the revolution demand elections. As Herbert Mathews says in his recent book on Cuba, elections would have meant the end of the

revolution. This does not mean that revolution is not, or cannot be democratic. I would like to think that the opposite is true, and certainly, it was this belief that led most of us to a fervent support and concern for the Cuban revolution. It was its anti-Stalinist character that held so much promise. This healthyaspect of the revolution and its consequent attraction to the oppressed the world over struck fear into the pocketbooks of the owning class.

Our concern for the democratic development of the Cuban Revolution has an entirely different quality from the concern of those who want to see a return to the electoral system which capitalist countries supporrt. We can be certain that any genuine development of democratic forms consistent with the new social order being built in Cuba would not be viewed with delight in Washington or by many who look for the "forms" rather than the substance of democracy. I couldn't agree more that political democracy is an immensley important matter for the development of a revolution. It is a subject which Stalinism knows nothing about or worse still opposes. It is a subject, which i think, Fidel is not unaware of but he is faced with colossal problems which require the good will of the Soviet government.

I think that the formation of the United Party of the Socialist Rev. is a step in the right direction, at least in theory. It certainly could be one way of accepting the cooperation of the CP and at the same time keeping them under rank and file control. It is too early to say what will happen, but I do not think that the situation is ready-made for the PSP to take over. The whole Cuban experience must be having a profound affect upon the PSP membership, especially its younger elements who, I was told by many people in Cuba, are more Fidelista than Communista.

The conditions which brought the Fidelistas to power, though, are dangerous as well promising. The fact that Fidel did not build a revolutionary in the process of the struggle leaves the PSP in a strong position. On the other hand, the profoundly democratic implications of the struggle to date, as well as many aspects of the policies of the government auger well for the future. Time and circumstances will tell.

I must say that I have similar feeling about the future of the Committee xthat you have expressed. I do have the notion , thmough, that the Embassy staff have changed their attitude to the Committee. Cruz gladly attended our banquet and spoke. I understand that he did likewise for a banquet in Montreal. The CP of Canada wast in the process of setting up a "Canadian-Cuban Friendship committee" here in Toronto prior to our banquet, but the appearance of Cruz at the affair seems to have nipped the idea in the bud. In Vancouver, a committee by this name has been in existance sinc early fall and was formed by a group of people around the CP. One of our Cuban members said that he had been asked by someone in Cuba to form the Committee in Toronto and he withdrew from the FPCC in order to do this. We also know that the CP in Toronto had strck off certain people to work on the project.

You are quite right about Richard Gibson and the N.Y. FPCC. Gibson has been forced into inferior living quarters and the committee has been qite inactive. Of course, Gibson was not the driving force behind the committee in the first place, so nothing has changed regards Gibson's own activity. His secretary, Berta Green, was the person who built the committee, while Dick was merely the figure head after Taber went to Havana. Gibson being an egotistical soul resented the fact that Berta got the credit for hter work and dismissedd her. Since then, the committee has been going downhill. Other factors, of course, have contributed to the situation.

Now, what is the future of the FPCC? Because of the growing influence of the Cuban CP, I personally feel somewhat uneasy about being publicly identified as the person most enthusiastic (here in Canada) for the Cuban revolution. Naturally, I feel as strongly as ever, about Cuba's right of self-determination, but identification withm the Committee is coming to mean more than this. Quite frankly, I have not completely settled the problem in my mind yet. I think that another committee with a broader purpose could not grow out of the FPCC.. The Committee has now been effectively reduced to two centres, Toronto and Montreal. The most recent developments in Cuba have destroyed the popular appeal and therefore popular support.

I am interested in the formation of a New Left Association in Montreal. The situation in the NDP in Ontario is very bad. There is a full-scale witbh-hunt in progress against "trotskyite". I applied for membership a couple of months ago and was refused without explaination. I heard via the grapevine that my activities in the Cuba Committee are proof that I have not "changed". The fact is that several people who have "changed" have also been excluded, such as Bill Spira, Murray Dowson, Joe Rosenthal etc. These people are not even active int the FPCC. My big crime seems that I do not go around red-baiting Trotskyites or that I am prepared to work with them as well as other persons who are being red-baited by the NDP leadership. I went around to a NDP membership meeting xxxxing a few weeks ago and this created quite a stir. There was great bostility on the part of some and a consequent confusion on the part of new comers who don't know what it is all about. There seems to be no hope in the near future of getting into the party, or of even being allowed to do some work.

There is a slim possibility that I may be going to Cuba sometime this year. I have asked the Ambassador to see if he could arrange for me to go down on the freight plane. From past experience, I do not have any confidence that this can be arranged. That is why I say a slim possibility. You mentioned the almost total paralysis of the work of the Montreal committee as a result of differences. I would be interested in some details of the situation there.

Please do not wait as long as in answering as I have taken.

Fraternally,

(Vern Olson address)

648 A Yonge St.
Toronto 5

March 1, 1962

Dear Clara,

I was glad to hear of the successful banquet in Montreal. It indicates that the F.P.C.C. certainly has possibilities. 150 persons is a significant number, especially at $3 per plate, we did not have many more than that.

We sent your literature order except for the December 2nd speech which has not yet arrived. It will be sent as soon as it arrives. The 26th of July speech we published has sold 240 copies so far. Enclosed you will find an advertisement of our speakers which was sent to 300 organizations, every home and school association in Toronto, Hamilton, and Oshawa as well most of the clubs and organizations. One of our speakers, Toni Foster, has already spoken before two meetings.

A Mrs. J. Legere, 308 Murdock Ave, Noranda Que. has written us offering to help the Committee. She might be pleased to hear from your chapter also. We sent her an assortment of literature to sell.

The Toronto Chapter is now undertaking its part of the membership drive and renewal campaign. Of course we will not be able to function on the same plane as immediately after the invasion but there are many projects and activities which are open to us and which we shall take advantage of to surge ahead. We now have a film from Cuba which will be shown and we are awaiting several more which are in Ottawa. We plan to have a 26th of July celebration with known entertainers and we have written to Cuba asking for someone from the Ministry to speak. An art exibition and sale will be used to raise funds for a worty project concerning Cuba.

There is always the problem of leadership but a few people with ability and enthusiasim can do wonders when they have the aid of people willing to help. The F.P.C.C. has probably passed the stage where many professional people with positions will sponsor us or take part in leadership, or take any part at all. In certain aspects I consider this an advantage, we have a solid basis now which can be relied upon. It has been tested by time and events. The people we work with now are a pleasure to work with because we agreethat the question of a just presentation of what is happening in Cuba is so important here that other side issues and prejudices are insignificant, in other words we have more unity. Similar events took place in Cuba.

I have not heard of any activities in which this Medical Aid to Cuba Committee has taken part though the formation was announced some time ago. Some of them attended our banquet and we were pleased to invite them. The question of medical aid is important and we would like to collaborate and add our help as much as possible. Personally I do not see the necessity for a separate and distinct committee. Is there any reason why this particular issue needs a separate committee? I do not see where this committee will succeed where the Fair Play did not. I do not think that the Fair Play is so narrow that it would not be glad to work with any interested persons , or undemocratic so that they do not have voice, all they have to do is come to the meetings and vote. Of course anyone has the freedom to set up any type of committee that they wish, Fair Play would never challenge this. Unity of all progressive forces is very necessary on a question as important as Fair Play For Cuba,it would be impossible, I believe, for another organization to satisfy the broad need which Fair Play fills. The Committee has come through many events,triumphs and hardships, betrayals and much hard work but it has always stood firm on the question of justice and looks forward to maintaining its integrity and fighting new battles. Who knows when events will call upon Fair Play again to take part in history as we have done before, all those times when we were right and history bore us out. I feel it would be a tragedy if the Fair Play For Cuba Committee would die,especially at this time when there is such need for it.

This are my personal feelings and are not necessarily those of other members of the committee.

Robert Horn

Robert Horn

Toronto Chairman

Copy to V. Olson

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE MARCH 11 ,1962

VERNEL OLSON, national chairman of the FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE challenged the daily press, particularly the Toronto Star's Roy Shields and the Toronto Telegram's Douglas Robbins, to a public debate on what they claim to be a crisis in the Cuban economy; that the food shortages in particular are due to the resistance of the peasants to the agrarian reform policies of the revolutionary government.

He suggested that the debate be arranged in Toronto's Massey Hall, with the press giving free publicity to quarantee the success of the meeting and with press coverage of the meeting itself equal to the present hate Cuba campaign.

Mr. Olson also challenged the daily press to initiate a campaign to have part of the Canadian food surpluses diverted to the alleviation of the suffering which the press alleges exists in Cuba. Such a campaign would be far more constructive than columns of diatribe against the Cuban government and cynical reporting of Cuba's problems. The press should launch an appeal through its columns to the Canadian people to send money, food, medicines, to be placed in the hands of responsible and impartial organizations such as the Society of Friends. Such an organization would chahnel the needed supplies to the Cuban people and report back on further needs.

The difficulties that the Cuban economy is no doubt undergoing ,said Mr Olson, are not a product of the policies of the Cuban government. These difficulties are not a result of the resistance of the farm popul ation to the agrarian policies. To present them as such one would have to ignore the now almost total blockade the US has imposed on tiny Cuba; a blockade which has wrought tremendous difficulties for Cuba's economy. Through this blockade powerful US interests hope to bring the Cuban economy and the revolutionary government crashing down.

Agriculture, far from being the Achilles Heel of the revolution, is the area of greatest achievement. For example---in 1958 production of beans amounted to 11,000 tons. By 1960 production had risen to 40,000 tons and the estimation for 1961, based on actual production up to the middle of the year, was to be 122,000 tons. In two trips to Cuba in the past year I travelled over 300 miles through the Cuban countryside and saw with my owh eyes, the opening up of virgin land on a truly massive scale. The fact that food shortages have developed despite gains in agricultural output is not suprising when you realize that close to 80 % of Cuba's food needs prior to the revolution were imported from the U.S. and the vicious cutting of the sugar quota deprived Cuba of dollars for the purchase of large quantities of food from dollar countries.

Is the hysteria now being whipped up in the press designed to bring Ottawa into line with the U.S. embargo--to force the Diefenbaker government to close off the trade in agricultural products which Canada is now conducting with Cuba, and which has been such a boon to Canada's lagging agricultural export trade?

Is it part of a campaign to soften up the Canadian people for another invasion attempt by the CIA?

The Canadian people need to be alerted to these dangers. Canada must continue and extend Canadian-Cuban trade by the federal government extending long-term loans and credits to Cuba. Canada must refuse to aid, either directly or indirectly, any military escapades designed to make Latin America safe for U.S. investments. Such escapades could lead us into a nuclear war.

for further information contact

-30-

Vernel Olson
21 Ellis Gardens
Ro 9-5882

648 A Yonge St.
Toronto 5, Ontario

Mr. Pete Seeger
c/o Folkways Record Corp.
117 West 46th St.
New York 36, N.Y.

March 16, 1962

Dear Mr. Seeger,

I have been following your fight for liberty and civil rights in the United States and wish you victory.

We are going to have a massive 26th of July celebration here in Toronto this summer to help strengthen the solidarity of Canadian and Cuban people.

We have asked the Cuban government to send us someone from the ministry to speak as a representative of the Cuban people and we have asked Mr. C. Wright Mills and Mr. Huberman or Mr. Sweezy to take part, as well as representatives of Canadian labor, art, and science.

We would like to ask you, as an artist who has taken an outstanding part in the struggle for justice, to participate in our program. Would you please inform us of the details involved in bringing you to Toronto and whether you would like to come. I tried to contact an agent here in Toronto who would contact you but could not find one.

Thank you,

Robert Horn, Toronto Chairman

648 A Yonge St.
Toronto 5

Prof. C. Wright Mills
400 Strawtown Road
West Nyack, New York
U.S.A.

March 18, 1962

Dear Prof. Mills,

I have been following your work in the United States and would like to express my appreciation of what you have done for the Cuban people and for humanity. Our Committee has sold many copies of your book Listen Yankee, and we encourage everyone to read it.

There is going to be a massive 26th of July celebration here in Toronto this summer. We have invited the Cuban government to send a feature speaker and we are asking writers, intellectuals, artists, and labor representatives from both Canada and America to speak at this celebration.

We would be very interested in having you take part in our program to increase the solidarity of the Canadian and Cuban people. Would you please let us know if you can participate and what would be the details involved in bringing you here.

Thank you,

Robert Horn, Toronto Chairman

21 Ellis Gdns.,
Toronto 3, Ont.,
Mar 18, 1962.

Toronto Telegram,
233 Bay Street,
Toronto, Ont.

Editor:

The author of CASTRO'S HELL IS HIS OWN MAKING, Mr. Douglas Robbins, is not only an intellectually dishonest man but also personally dishonest. Mr. Robbins phoned my house and talked at some length with my wife about the Cuban situation and our attitude to recent events. Robbins twice protested that he was not a reporter but merely a friend of a member of the Fair Play For Cuba Committee.

In his slanderous article, he says he "spoke this week with the wife of an executive of the Fair Play For Cuba Committee" and gives his quotes of what Mrs. Olson is supposed to have said to him. A more dishonest tactic is hard to imagine.

It is impossible to answer, in the space of a short letter, the many questions raised by Robbins, but I have already challenged Mr. Robbins to a public debate. The cooperation of your paper would be greatly appreciated.

I would like also, to request equivalent space in your paper to answer Mr. Robbins. Please let me know your answer to this request.

Sincerely yours,

Vernel Olson,
Chairman,
Fair Play For Cuba Committee.

What Do Canadians Have To Say About Trade With Cuba?

The decision as to the course Canada shall take should be made by Canada on the basis of policies which she believes are appropriate to Canada. Trade between this country and Cuba is all in Canada's favor. In the first nine months of 1961 Canada has sold $21.5 million worth of goods to the Caribbean republic. Cuba on the other hand has only sold $4.6 million worth to us.

PRIME MINISTER DIEFENBAKER

The Canadian export program has recently shown the healthiest increases in trade with collectivist-oriented countries. There is an astonishing potential in such trade that could be a major factor in helping to solve our chronic unemployment problem.

REV. JOHN MORGAN, FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

We'll continue to do business with Cuba despite pressure from Washington for an all-out embargo. We'll not yield. This is a question of principle. Washington's request... AMOUNTS TO FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN OUR DEMESTIC AFFAIRS. IT IS NOT TO BE TOLERATED. To acquiesce against our better judgement would be a tacit admission that might is right.

Cliff MacKay, Vancouver Sun

Canada's policy about trade with Cuba must be decided by Canadians and in this Connection we support the attitude of our government.

MONTREAL LABOR COUNCIL (CLC)160,000 members

LETTER TO DIEFENBAKER - We are appreciative of the fact that your government is assuming an independent position in its relations with the Government of Cuba. In the opinion of this Executive Board, the continuation of normal relations with Cuba is most desirable as well as beneficial to our nation. Apparently, among the items sold to Cuba which Mr. Martin would halt, are automotive engines and motor vehicles. This is particularly distressing to us in view of the unemployment currently plaguing automobile workers in this area. We trust that your Government will continue its present policy on Cuba and will not reverse its stand under pressure from either outside forces or on the basis of arguments presented by members of the Opposition.

LOCAL 444, U.A.W., WINDSOR, ONT.

WHY SHOULD WE SHUN CUBA? - The Diefenbaker government deserves high marks for refusing to bow to U. S. efforts to halt Canada's trade with Cuba. Their remarks are a useful restatement of Canada's determination to pursue a policy tailored to her own view of world affairs.

TORONTO STAR

We trade with Cuba in the same manner as with any other country with the exception of strategic goods which we do not ship to that country.

GEORGE HEES, MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE

DIEFENBAKER'S SENSIBLE VOICE - If Cuba, why not Red China, with which we do a much more important trade? There are plenty of Americans who'd like to stop that too. Why should we give them any encouragement? As Mr. Diefenbaker said, we must follow the course we think best for Canada. Prime Minister Diefenbaker spoke in a clear, sensible, Canadian voice which deserves the support of his fellow Canadians.

EDITORIAL, VANCOUVER SUN

(Found in 1962)

PUBLIC MEETING

# How Should Canada Act Towards Cuba?

HEAR VERNEL OLSON, National Chairman FAIR PLAY for CUBA COMMITTEE

**What's behind** THE STEPPED UP STAR AND TELEGRAM HATE-CUBA CAMPAIGN? WHY ARE THE LIBERALS BAITING THE DIEFENBAKER GOVERNMENT FOR THE TRICKLE OF TRADE THAT CANADA IS CONDUCTING WITH CUBA?

If the Cubans are facing a starvation diet, why doesn't the press --instead of trying to make capital over it-- launch a call for the shipment of Canadian food surpluses to Cuba?

**Have the Cuban people** GONE "SOUR" ON THE REVOLUTION-- ARE ITS DIFFICULTIES DUE TO INTERNAL RESISTANCE, and not outside counter-revolutionary pressures?

Why should Canada fall in line behind the U.S. State Department embargo against Cuba -- the only Latin American country which is really carrying out the reforms that President Kennedy says his Alliance for Progress is for?

Cuba is Canada's second best customer for breeding and dairy cattle -- 60% of the baby chicks, 75% of all live poultry and 80% of the live pigs exported by Canada went to Cuba. Why not keep this trade, and why not drastically develop it for industrial goods? Hit at unemployment here, provide jobs by maintaining and extending trade with Cuba, with the help of long-term credits.

QUESTIONS AND WIDE OPEN DISCUSSION

## Thurs Mar 29, Lansdowne Hall

## 8 PM 10 LANSDOWNE (AT QUEEN)

Sponsored By The Fair Play For Cuba Committee, 648-A Yonge St. Rm.10, Toronto.

(Found in 1962)

# HANDS OFF CUBA

IF YOU BELIEVE - that 6½ million people newly liberated from U.S. economic domination and who are struggling to raise their desparately low standard of living have a right to determine their own future,

IF YOU BELIEVE - that the U.S. has no right to attack this little country, directly or indirectly,

YOU WILL WANT TO JOIN OUR DEMONSTRATION PROTESTING U.S. ACTION AGAINST CUBA - SATURDAY APRIL 15th, 1:30PM.

We will meet at the site of the New City Hall, Queen & Bay Streets and we will march to the U.S. Consulate.

TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN OUR LINE AND REGISTER YOUR PROTEST AGAINST INTERVENTION - YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE CUBAN PEOPLE'S STRUGGLES.

self-determinatio
Cuba's right

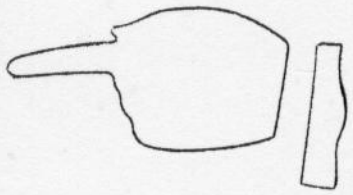
EXPAND TRADE
LOANS TO CUBA

Sponsored by the FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE, Box 923, Adelaide St.P.O. Toronto, Ont.

(over)

(Found in 1962)

# Announcing !



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# MEMBERSHIP MEETING

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## Reports on Organization & Literature Sales

## & COLOR FILM On Cuba

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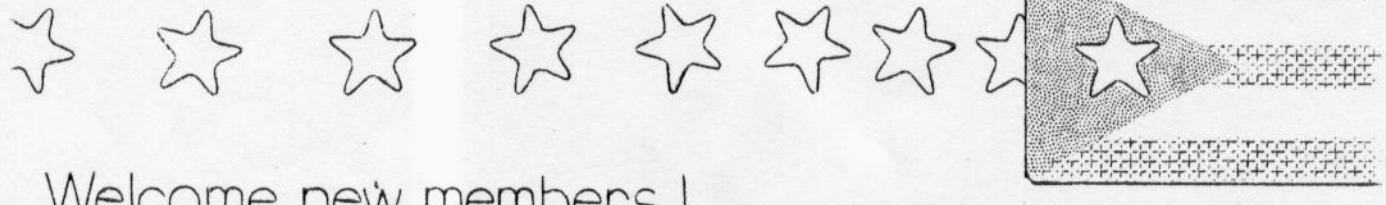
THURSDAY APRIL 25 8 PM

AT CARPENTERS HALL, 169 GERRARD ST E

(near Allen Gardens)

Bring your friends!



Welcome new members!

## Fair Play For Cuba Committee

Box 923, Adelaide St. P.O., Toronto

# FILMS

ON

Films to be shown

- COUNTER REVOLUTION -

- SCHOOL IN THE CAMP —

— THE YEAR OF AGRARIAN REFORM —

Ken Orchard, recently in Cuba, will comment on the films.

— refreshments — — all welcome —

TIME:- 8:00 P.M.

DATE:- SAT. APRIL 28th

PLACE:- ~~LONSDALE HALL - 23rd & Lonsdale N.V.~~
I. O. O. F HALL 155 east Keith Rd. N.V.
(1 block east of Lonsdale)

SPONSORED BY:- NORTH VAN. N.D.Y.

may 12, 1962

# FIESTA de CUBA

## Dance, Drinks, Food

SPECIAL ART EXHIBIT - CUBAN WOODCUTS

donation $1

LATEST HIT TUNES FROM CUBA!

## SAT. MAY 12th 7 P.M.

## CO-OP HALL

## 846a Pape

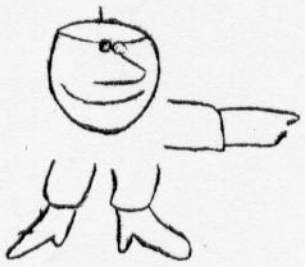
(N. OF DANFORTH)

PRESENTED BY

THE FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE

648 A YONGE ST., TORONTO

RH



# OUTDOOR SOCIAL

REFRESHMENTS DANCING food

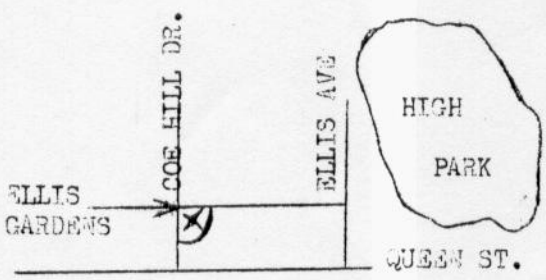
## SAT. JULY 7TH

## 8 PM

donation $1

## 21 ELLIS GARDENS

*HOME OF VERN OLSON*




FAIR PLAY for

CUBA COMMITTEE

RH

21 Ellis Gdns.,
Toronto 3, Ont.
Sept 1, 1962.

Editor, Globe and Mail,
Toronto, Ont.

Sir: On August 21st, your editorial page carried a cartoon which carried the idea that the land given to the individual peasant in Cuba under the Agrarian Reform Law of 1959 had now been taken away and that he was being forced into state farms. This cartoon and a subsequent editorial are based on partial or false information. On July 26, 1962, Fidel Castro had this to say to the Cuban people.

"Now the counter-revolutionaries tell the campesinos, 'this is socialism, and they are going to socialize the land', but we say to the small farmer, speaking very clearly, we tell him: 'Don't believe those stories; this is socialism and because it is socialism we are not going to socialize your piece of land. Why? Because you, campesino, are and ally of the working class; because you, small farmer, do not exploit anyone; because you, small farmer, work with your family and produce. The working class is not going to take away your land. On the contrary, the working class gives you credit, sends you teachers, sends you doctors, builds roads for you, educates your children, buys your products, pays you good prices and makes an effort to supply you with all that you need in the country.' That is what the worker tells the farmer."

The speech which was given by Fidel Castro on August 18th before the National Congress of Cane Cooperatives was based on a decision made by the cane cooperative representatives themselves. This speech will be available in English in a short time and would be worth publishing by your paper as a public service. So little real information about Cuba comes to Canadians that I would be willing to supply your paper with a complete English translation if you so desire.

Yours truly,

Vernel Olson,

Textual declaration by Dr. Fidel Castro, Prime Minister of the Republic of Cuba in response to the accusations of the United States Government.

The Government of the United States issued yesterday afternoon the following declaration: "Two small boats which are believed to have been Cuban, shot at an airplane of the U.S. at 2 p.m. Cuban time, August the 30th, 1962. The attack occurred approximately fifteen miles north of Cuba on international waters, while the airplane made its routine flight of instruction. It was occupied by three reserve members of the Army on active provisional service. In case a similar incident should again occur of shooting at airplanes or ships of the U.S. on or in international waters, during peaceful actions of the functions of the Army of the U.S.A., we will use all the necessary means for our own defense and will assure the free use of said waters. The Cuban Government has been informed by the appropriate channels".

Dr. Castro continued: We categorically affirm that the statement of the North-American Government is absolutely false. It is a pure invention, a method in which yankee politics have much experience. It is not all strange that after the embarrassing and criminal attack on the city of Havana by armed boats which left from Florida and which returned there, the Government of Washington should now turn to this cynical and unscrupulous recourse. Neither a naval craft or airplane of Cuba has ever committed a hostile act of any kind in any form against the airplanes, ships, installations, or waters of North-America. Instead, military ships and planes of the U.S.A. have violated hundreds of times our aerial space, our proper waters, and harassed our ships with low flights. Their guards at the Guantanamo Naval Base, usurped territory of the Cuban Nation, almost daily shoot towards our land. This, aside from the uncountable times that airplanes proceeding from the United States have set fire to our sugar cane crops or thrown arms and explosives over our National territory. The pirate ships that proceed from that country have attacked ships, industrial installations and residential zones, before and after the criminal invasion of Playa Giron (Bay of Pigs). This was all recognized and confessed by the President, the Pentagon, the C.I.A. and the yankee State Department. At no time has Cuba answered the provocations with another provocation. Hundreds of times our rights have been violated and always, invariably, we have responded with a public protest and denouncement before the International Organizations and world opinion. We have been denouncing the U.S.A. for preparing an aggression against our country. The cynical, unscrupulous and shameless invention of this incident which presents Cuban ships shooting against a yankee airplane in international waters, coincides with the belligerent campaign and the hysterical anti-Cubanism which has been let loose during these days, confirms the justness of the warning which Cuba is making to the World of the dangers which are involved for our country and World peace, the adventurous and war-like politics of the Government of the U.S.A. In its statement the Government of the U.S.A. threatens that: 'in case a similar incident should again occur their armed forces will act'.

Real incidents provoked by Cuba shall never occur, but invented incidents, truculent, criminal, forged with means of aggression against our Country shall possibly occur. The Government of the United States is devoid of all scruples. But do not believe that Cuba can become intimidated with the brutal threats. If the armed forces of the U.S.A. attack Cuba, they will have to come disposed to die in the battle.

OUR COUNTRY OR DEATH! WE WILL WIN!

Signed,

Major Fidel Castro
Prime Minister of the Revolutionary
Government of Cuba.

Havana, September 1st, 1962.

21 Ellis Gdns.,
Toronto 3, Ont.,
Sept. 3, 1962.

Gabriel Glazer,
5850 Souart St., #14,
Montreal 26, Que.

Dear Gabe,

Information has come to our attention tonight that the United States may be preparing military action against Cuba in the near future. A night letter was went to you tonight asking the Montreal chapter to organize a protest picket for this Saturday to coincide with similar actions in Toronto and Vancouver.

It is obvious that the reports about a Cuban gunboat firing on a U.S. Navy Plane are complete fabrications. The "We Will Fire Back" statement by Kenneky is an obvious preparation of the American people for possible military action against Cuba.

We have also been informed, not through the bourgeois press, that American families of forces in Guantanamo have been evacuated and that a Cuban militiaman has been wounded by a Yankee sniper. Also, we are informed, Kennedy's military afvisor, Gen Maxwell Taylor, has spent the past week touring American military installations in the Carribean.

We urge th maximum effort to assure the broadest pobbible protest this Saturday.

Fraternally,

Vernel Olson.
National Chairman.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE September 4, 1962

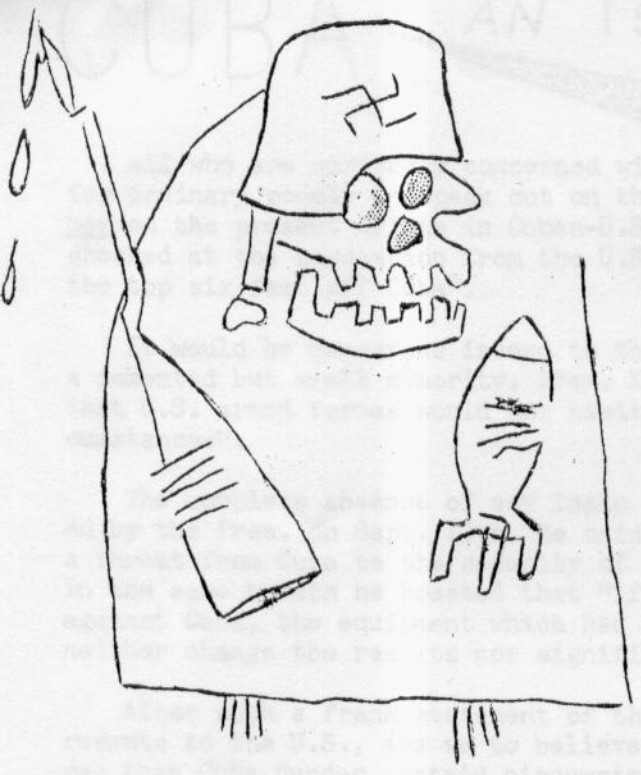
VERNEL OLSON, National Chairman of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, said in a statement today, that there exists a grave danger in the immediate period of an American military action against Cuba. Mr. Olson charged that official reports of "attacks" on an American Navy plane were obvious fabrications designed to create a situation where American military action against Cuba could seem justified.

This report of an alleged attack on a navy plane by Cuban gunboats, and President Kennedy's "We Will Shoot Back" statement follows by only a few days hysterical reports by trigger-happy Senators and others in the United States that Cuba is becoming a military threat to the security of the United States.

In the last few days the families of American forces at the Guantanamo Naval Base have been evacuated and a Cuban militiaman has been wounded by rifle fire from the Base. Mr. Olson called on the Canadian people to strongly protest any further moves by the American government to violate the sovereignty of Cuba.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: RO 9-5882

VERNEL OLSON, 21 ELLIS GARDENS, TORONTO



# CUBA is in DANGER!

## Urgent Appeal: COME WITH YOUR FRIENDS

## of attack

to a *picket line*

at *CIVIC SQUARE*

(*QUEEN & BAY STS.*)

## SAT. - Sept. 8TH - 11 AM

PRINTED BY THE FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE, Toronto, Ont.

# CUBA — AN Issue FOR THIS PEACE RALLY

All who are seriously concerned with peace and who believe that it is necessary for ordinary people to speak out on the great issues of our day must surely speak now on the present crisis in Cuban-U.S. relations. All fair-minded people must be shocked at the suggestion from the U.S. Senate that the United States could "remove the top six feet off Cuba".

It would be dangerous indeed to think that such ideas are only the rantings of a demented but small minority. Pres. Kennedy, just a couple of days ago, reaffirmed that U.S. armed forces would not hesitate to move against Cuba "under certain circumstances".

The complete absence of any logic in the U.S. position was inadvertently revealed by the Pres. on Sept. 13th. He said that "his administration would not tolerate a threat from Cuba to the security of either the U.S. or other hemisphere countries." In the same breath he boasted that "if the U.S. should ever find it necessary to act against Cuba, the equipment which had been supplied from the Soviet bloc would neither change the results nor significantly delay it."

After such a frank statement of the inconsequential threat which tiny Cuba represents to the U.S., are we to believe that there is any honesty at all in the charges that Cuba "under certain circumstances" will become a threat to the security of the U.S.? The fact is that the only threat which Cuba represents is a threat to the profits of a handful of foreign investors in the U.S. who seem to have full sway over the foreign policy of the United States government.

The placing of Cuba in the category of "enemy territory" is a dangerous, if not criminal game which must be opposed at all costs. If we don't speak out now against the intensive psychological war being directed against Cuba, then we should renounce any pretensions of concern for the "right of self-determination of peoples". After all, is not the real test of this concern our attitude to a people's decision which is contrary to "our interests"?

The "concern" for Soviet Bloc aid to Cuba is hypocritical to say the least, when the only alternative to Cuba's acceptance of this aid would have been economic collapse and successful counter-revolution.

This PEACE RALLY would be gravely remiss if a strong pronouncement against the logic of the present U.S. policy towards Cuba was not forthcoming. We propose the following resolution for your consideration.

"THE PEOPLE OF CANADA VIEW WITH THE GRAVEST CONCERN THE ECONOMIC AND PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE BEING WAGED AGAINST TINY CUBA BY THE POWERFUL UNITED STATES. THE LOGIC OF THE PRESENT OFFICIAL UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARDS CUBA IS THE EXTENSION OF THE LIMITED WAR INTO ACTIVE MILITARY OPERATIONS. WE CALL UPON THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO:

1. Stop the psychological war against Cuba!
2. End the economic blockade; restore normal trade relations!
3. Restore normal diplomatic relations with the Republic of Cuba!

Such a policy would pave the way for the full employment of the energies of the Cuban people in the solution of their many problems in housing, education, food production, etc."

Published by the FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE, Vernel Olson Chairman
Box 923 Adelaide St. P.O. Toronto, Ontario

INSTRUCTIONS TO PICKETS

This is a Fair Play for Cuba Committee picket line. All invited to participate must adhere to the following F. P. C. C. rules:

1. All signs must be approved.

2. All press inquiries should be directed to picket captains with white FPCC bands.

3. Demonstrators will conduct themselves in an orderly manner under the direction of F. P. C. C. Picket Captains and report any disorders.

4. Police lines must be observed and barricades are not to be crossed during the demonstration.

5. F. P. C. C.'s Director will announce the end of the demonstration and inform everyone of the proper dispersal procedures.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION

21 Ellis Gdns.,
Toronto 3, Ont.
Sept. 9, 1962.

Dear Gabe,

Thanks for your prompt reply to the telegram and letter. Your letter arrived yesterday morning just as we were going off to the picket line here in Toronto.

and fifty
Something over one hundred people turned out for one hour in front of the U.S. Consulate. We then marched down Yonge St. through the Sat. shopping crowds. Enclosed is a copy of a statement which I issued in the name of the FP Committee.

I don't think I mentioned this, but we were acting on the basis of an international appeal put out by the Cuban Foreign Office and was transmitted to us personally. On the basis of the news, we had no reason to question the fears of the Cubans. On the contrary, the evidence was and still is very convincing. (i.e.) The Toronto Star in an Editorial Friday quoted the New York Herald Tribune as saying the Kennedy administration as "waiting for some over-bold move on the part of Premier Fidel Castro which would be a good reason for knocking him out of power with American force, even so slight a move, perhaps, as cutting off the water supply to the U.S. base at Guantanamo Bay."

The fact that the liberal and progressive press has not picked up the warning is not decisive. For one thing, the press has been acting, for the past year and one half , under the suggestion of Pres. Kennedy, by not publishing U.S. moves against Cuba. Large scale preparations are no doubt under way but very secret. The most recent scare campaign about a "soviet build-up" on the island is designed to prepare the world for possible direct U.S. intervention. This type of campaign tends to strongly discourge the liberal press from coming to Cuba's defense. This is, in my opinion, a big reason for this type of campaign on the part of the administration.

Your reasoned approach (even somewhat formalistic) I think can be very dangerous. If the invasion were to start, no amount of demonstration on our part will change the situation. We must protest the preparations, especially the psycological preparations, even though we may honestly consider that they are not quite ready to move yet. We of course hope that our periodic protests (in public) will help to raise an alarm in the minds of left thinking people also. The danger we have to avoid is appearing alarmist, a danger which I personally am very conscious of. I firmly believe that our actions yesterday were not of this nature.

You may think that my statement, which is enclosed, is too strong, even alarmist, but I stand ready to defend this approach even though an invasion does not occur in the next period. The most important fact is that the President of the U.S. and his bi-partisan supporters have publicly aknowledged that the direct intervention of U.S. troops is not only possible but probable. If they do not act it will be only because, in their better judgement, they fear, more than death itself, the Latin American Revolution.

Up to the very day of invasion the leaders of the capitalist Uninted States will be weighing the pros and cons of 'will an invasion of Cuba delay or hasten the Latin American Revolution'. This and this alone stays their hand with regard to Cuba.

I would be most happy to write an article on Cuba and the NDP. Before starting, it would be most useful to know the maximum permissible length. Cutting of an article after it is written is not good. Please let me know as soon as possible.

Anne and I are hoping to get down to Cuba this month. As usual, the delaying factor is permission from Cubana to travel on the air freight planes. I am just a little concerned that if the trip is delayed too long that I may end up as a war correspondent.

The Committee in Toronto is planning a large banquet of about 250 people on November 3rd. Carleton Beals has agreed to come up and be the guest speaker. He will also address a meeting sponsored by the Medical Aid for Cuba group either the day before or the day after. We will share the expences with them (the expense to bring him to Toronto). Our banquet last year was a great success, with 180 people. With Beals as after dinner speaker, we should be able to attract 250 people.

What is the Montreal CP doing in regard to Cuba these days. They have formed a Canada-Cuba Friendship Committee but they are only a pale reflection of our Committee. The Cubans in the Consulate do not seem to favor them over us. If anything, the opposite is so.

Warmest regards,

Vernel Olson.

EMBAJADA DE CUBA
OTTAWA, CANADA

No. 1149

Ottawa, September 11th, 1962

Mr. Vernel Olson,
21 Ellis Gardens,
Toronto 3,
Ontario.

Dear Mr. Olson:

Just a few lines to acknowledge receipt of your letter of September 8th, 1962 with the statement you issued in the name of the Fair Play For Cuba Committee.

I saw also in the local press some photos of the picket line you mentioned. In my name and in the name of the Cuban People I will like to thank you and your friends of the Committe for all your work in tha favor of the Cuban Revolution. About the banquet the next 3rd of November I will tray to prepare my schedule to be present. In a near future I will inform you for sure.

Sincerely yours,

Américo Cruz
Ambassador of Cuba.
112 Sherwood Dr
Ottawa 3, Ont

File Copy

FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA NEWSLETTER #2 SEPTEMBER 20, 1962

Published by: Los Angeles Chapter, P.O. Box 26251, L.A. 26, Cal.

I) CHAPTER MEETING THURSDAY, SEPT. 27th 2936 West 8th St., 8 pm

After a period of relative calm, the "Cuban Question" has exploded once more, and the danger of war, which always implies the danger of world atomic war, is greater than at any time since the attempted invasion of Cuba in April 1961. The incredibly irresponsible United States press, as well as high-placed statesmen are recklessly inflaming public opinion and openly calling for blood.

A complete up-to-date report on the Cuban crisis will be made by our chairman Martin Hall at the upcoming chapter meeting. Every member is strongly urged to attend. In addition, our chairman, who has just returned from a trip to Europe, will have some interesting information to relate to us concerning attitudes toward the Cuban revolution prevalent in Europe. Of particular interest will be his report of extensive discussions held with the Cuban delegation to the Peace Congress in Moscow.

II) FPCC ACTS IN CUBAN CRISIS

FPCC nationally took the following steps in the fightback against the "war now" campaign against Cuba:

a) On Sept. 4th FPCC issued a press release calling on the U.S. Government to open negotiations with Cuba at any level to reduce existing tensions. In a separate statement, Richard Gibson, acting National Executive Secretary charged that the August 24th attack on Havana harbor by gunboats was "part of a concerted effort by Cuban counterrevolutionaries and their American accomplices to provoke a war between the two countries".

b) On September 7th, FPCC held a demonstration at the UN building, and again on September 18th (the opening of the UN General Assembly).

c) FPCC sent telegrams to President John F. Kennedy, Secretary of State Dean Rusk, and Attorney General Robert Kennedy, warning that counterrevolutionary elements in the United States and certain U.S. vested interests were seeking to provoke an armed conflict between the U.S. and Cuba.

d) A printed leaflet was distributed widely in New York headed "STOP THE COLD WAR AGAINST CUBA" and subtitled "SAND IN THE EYES CAN LEAD TO BLOOD ON THE BEACH AND WAR IN THE WORLD".

e) FPCC called on all chapters to take whatever action possible locally. Leaflets are being prepared which will be shipped to all chapters.

f) The courageous FPCC Chapter in Tampa, Florida, in the very center of counterrevolutionary warmongering and intrigue, at its own initiative, issued a leaflet entitled "AMERICANS MUST PROTEST", denouncing and exposing the terrorist "refugees", and their Yankee accomplices.

g) Individual supporters of FPCC were urged to send telegrams to the three U.S. government officials referred to in item (c). A few suggested messages are: "Avoid provocations and prevent international conflict over Cuba". "I urge you to take immediate steps to negotiate U.S.-Cuban differences and keep peace". "Halt Cuban exile provocations to prevent world war. Open immediate negotiations for U. S.-Cuban peace".

III) NEWS FROM CUBA

Authentic information through letters and short-wave radio continue to come from Cuba. Of particular interest is a letter received by one of our members from a Canadian teacher now working in Cuba. We can only quote from several paragraphs in this issue of the "Newsletter", but the entire communication will be read at the chapter meeting on Thursday September 27th.



"...As is natural, there are the "nuevas marxistas" spouting words all over the place, not quite sure how to put their words into action, and there's a good share of confusion and disorganization all around. But even in the short time I've been here (11 weeks) I've seen changes and improvements, particularly on a directorship level. Unfortunately, many professionals can't adjust to the ideas of the revolution (though it's interesting to find some who are doing so unconsciously and not knowing it themselves --- and there are those who are discovering to their amazement that they have more freedom of expression than before, and can offer criticisms that are taken seriously if they are honest and constructive ones, instead of followed by torture and imprisonment as so much of the world press contends...There is a lot of bureaucracy, but I can see that breaking down in places as well, and a lot of criticism is leveled at it.

"...And now we are going to open three new shhools in the fall (one for the crippled, one for the deaf, and one for disturbed youth) here in Havana and four more through the provinces. Two small hospital schools are going in orthopedic hospitals--limited, and by no means ideal, but a beginning, and the kids are happy and learning, and the teachers are learning right along with them.

"...In addition there's the exciting possibility of my working in a very select group on a program of acceleration for the extremely gifted from secondary schools. This presents a million insurmountable problems, and maybe I really have become part Cuban--I refuse to let the glaring impossibilities deter me. I really think we can do it!

"...Prices are higher than they were in February, and some items have hit close to inflationary level, but rents are low. Basic and needed goods (though hard to find sometimes) maintain a realistic price, and rationing has equalized and provided for the real essentials at fair prices....Compared to the rations we got in England right after the war we're wallowing in luxury. A bit of planning provides well-balanced and very adequate diets for everybody...."

'T FORGET THE CHAPTER MEETING, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27th, 2936 W. 8th

The Sun

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA,

# Jack SCOTT

Whenever I write of Cuba—and, yes, I'm afraid it's much too often—I find my eyes straying from my typewriter to the wall of my workroom. There hangs there a picture of a girl I fell in love with. This is it:

MAIDA

Her name is Maida Pozo. She is four and a half years old and she does not always look this serious. She had just awakened from her afternoon nap. I had asked my photographer, Vicente Cubillos, to take her picture in that pensive, just-waking moment.

I wanted you to see this picture. It may help to explain why I am with Fidel Castro.

Oh yes, I'm all too aware that the tide of current events may make that admission difficult to sustain when the United States had finally forced Cuba all the way into the orbit of the Soviet Union. But that's a small and unimportant risk when the fate of millions of children is involved.

Maida lives with her parents, three brothers and two sisters on a co-operative plantation in the country 30-odd miles from Havana. When I met her last spring they had just moved into a new cottage. It was the first home any member of the Pozo family has ever had without a dirt floor. It was the first any worker on the plantation had ever had with running water and a toilet.



When I met Maida I'd just come from close to two months' travelling in South America.

In Peru, in Chile, in Argentina and in Brazil I had seen children, who were dying slowly from hunger and malnutrition and, overnight, from hook-worm and typhoid fever and tuberculosis.

I had seen thousands of children in rags and filth, condemned to lives without enough to eat, without proper shelter or proper medicine or a doctor's care, without ever a hope of an education or a future with any more security or decency than animals.

I hated the bastards who hurt these children for their enormous profit and privilege. I hated the Americans whose millions of dollars and military weapons for the support of South American tyrants, to keep control of their investments, maintains them in power by the use of naked, armed force.

And so, when I reached Cuba, four and a half years old Maida Pozo made the difference for me in my outlook on Fidel Castro's revolution.

Without Castro Maida would face the same plight as her South American cousins. With Castro Maida and every other child in Cuba now has enough food, enough medicine, a roof over their heads that will keep out the rain, a chance for an education and a full, purposeful life.

★ ★ ★

It seems to me that this is the terrifying blind spot in America today, an America that worships another little four-year-old girl called Caroline who is growing up in a fairy-tale world of untold wealth and elegance.

America has forgotten the millions of Maidas. Fidel Castro has not.

And if that confronts a man with the arbitrary, cold-blooded choice between the philosophies of Marx and Lenin and the philosophies of an over-fed and over-indulged form of predatory capitalism then I'll go with Fidel.

If children are going to continue to die in their infancy to keep United States corporations strong in South America then I think the whole way of democracy, ours included, is a futile, losing game.

I believe that this is the thinking of serious and deeply-concerned men and women all over the world, that it is a far more significant issue than the ravings and ragings of the ideological debate, and that Fidel Castro, a man mocked and vilified in the United States, is one of the great men of our times.

Fidel Castro is making the world a good place for Maida Pozo. If there is any justice left at all, he will win over those who do not know that she exists.

FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE
Box 923 Adelaide St. P.O. Toronto, Ontari

Found in 1962

# STANLEY PARK NEW DEMOCRATIC CLUB 1343 ROBSON ST.

## A SERIES OF FOUR LECTURES ON

# CUBA

## CUBA'S HISTORY & BACKGROUND

## CUBA TODAY - CUBA TOMORROW

## BY MR. & MRS. M. KOURNASSOFF

Mr. Kournassoff is a former lecturer in Slavonic Languages at U. B. C. Mrs. Kournassoff is a lecturer in the deparment of English at U. B. C. Whiles in Cuba, they worked as dairy technicians for the Cuban Government. THE SERIES COMMENCE WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17th, at 8 P. M.

PUBLIC FORUMS EVERY SUNDAY, at 8 P. M. INTERESTING DISCUSSION ON SOCIAL POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, and CULTURAL QUESTIONS.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE October 22, 1962

No fair-minded Canadian can accept as good coin, the charges by President, John F. Kennedy that "surveillance" of the Island Republic of Cuba has discovered the existence of missiles with nuclear potential on Cuban soil. This charge by the President of the United States must be seen for what it is: the next logical step in a long series of aggressions against the sovereign state of Cuba.

No fair-minded person will deny Cuba the right of self defence against forces being unleashed by the powerful United States.

The ordinary people of Canada and of the United States have nothing in common with the U.S. rulers in Washington who, without their consent, are taking the peoples of the entire world to the very brink of nuclear destruction. We have no interest in defending the profits of Yankee and Canadian capital invested in Latin America. Above all, we are not prepared to go to war against the people of Revolutionary Cuba.

We call upon the Canadian and American people to protest, in the strongest possible way, the criminal decisions of the United States Government in regards to Cuba. We call upon the oppressed peoples of Latin America to rise up in thunderous condemnation of the crime about to be committed by the profit-hungry rulers of North America.

VERNEL OLSON
National Chairman

# STOP THE ATTACKS ON CUBA

## JOIN PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS IN FRONT OF THE AMERICAN CONSULATE

(UNIVERSITY AVE., NORTH OF QUEEN ST.)

## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23

NOON TO 1 PM AND 5PM TO 9 PM

AT 4 PM
(SPONSORED BY STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO)

LEAFLET PRINTED BY: FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE, BOX 923, ADELAIDE ST. P. O. TORONTO. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION WRITE OR PHONE RO.9-5882

(OVER)

(FOUND in 1962) 1962

# LATIN AMERICA-

## THE COMING STRUGGLE

## CARLETON BEALS — GUEST SPEAKER

Characterized at one time by TIME as "the outstanding authority on Latin America.", Carleton Beals is a graduate of California and Columbia Universities and a former faculty lecturer of the University of California, National University of Mexico and the New School of Social Research in New York.

During a trip to all countries of South America last year, Mr. Beals spoke to fourteen Universities. He has lived for many years in Mexico, Cuba and Peru, and has visited every Latin American country, plus British Guiana and Trinidad, most of them on numerous occasions and for considerable periods of time. He lived for a year in Spain, two years in Italy and has traveled in North Africa, Greece, Turkey, Portugal, France, Germany and the Soviet Union.

Mr. Beals has contributed at one time or another to nearly all U.S. publications and to many Latin American and Spanish publications. For seven years he was Associate Editor of Mexican Folkways.

Carleton Beals is the author of thirty-eight books, three of them book club choices. Two of his latest books are: House in Mexico and Nomads and Empire Builders, the story of the peoples of South America before the Conquest. Forthcoming books are: Latin America: World in Revolution, for Dec. 1962 publication; Cyclone Carry, the biography of Carry Nation, the saloon-smasher, who happened to be Carleton Beals' baby-sitter, appearing Nov. 7th. In preparation for publication next spring is a book on Panama and one on Chile.

## BANQUET

Nov. 3rd — Sat. — 10 LANSDOWNE AVE.

MEAL SERVED 6:30 (at Queen)

TICKETS $3 (students $1.50)

ENTERTAINMENT

phone RO 9-5882 write Box 923 Adelaide St. P.O. Toronto

for ticket delivery

Sponsored by the FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE

express concern.

Reverend George Hopton, chaplain, Hart House, believes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## FAIR PLAY BANQUET

# CARLETON BEALS

Noted American author and writer on Latin American affairs, Fellow of the American Geographical Society and the Guggenheim Foundation is also President to the editorial board of Latin American Digest and chairman of the University of Chicago Harris Foundation round table. The New York Post sent him to the Scottsboro Trial in Alabama in 1936. He has been a correspondent throughout most countries in Latin America (with Gen. Sandino in Nicaragua in 1928).

**SAT. NOV. 3 - 10 LANSDOWNE**

Phone DICK FIDLER — HO. 5-9106

**STUDENTS $1.50**

Banquet — Refreshments — Entertainment

Avsp. FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE

BOX 923 ADEL. ST. P.O.


# Skule stunt to tune of

A wildcat attempt to publicize the Faculty of Engineering's annual student show, Skule Nite, will probably cost the Engineering Society an unexpected $100.

A plywood sign 15 ft. wide by three feet high, advertising the show, was laboriously hoisted up the flagpole in front of Hart House late Friday night. It was taken down immediately, but with considerable damage to the flagpole ropes.

Although the engineers had nothing to do with the stunt, they are hiring a professional steeplejack to fix the pole says John Bell (III SPS), producer of Skule Nite.

The sign had been left behind the Electrical Building while the boys in charge of it were working on the engineers' float for the Homecoming Parade.

They had oringally planned to hang the sign from

# Here An

**Today, 1 pm.** The second in the NDP seminar series on Economic Problems of Today is held in Room 2104, Sidney Smith Building. Professor Ian Drummond will lead the dis-

21 Ellis Gdns.,
Toronto 3, Ont.,
Nov. 21, 1962.

Dr. America Cruz,
Ambassador of Cuba,
112 Sherwood Dr.,
Ottawa 3, Ont.

Dear Dr. Cruz,

Thanks for your letter dated Sept 11th last and many thanks for the complete volumne of the writings of Jose Marti which you so kindly sent to us. These volumnes are prominently displayed on our book shelves.

Our banquet was a big success with over 275 people in attendence. The hall was packed to capacity and the guest speaker was Mr. Dave Dellinger. Mr. Carleton Beals, who was supposed to come was involved in a car accident and was unable to attend.

We were very sorry that you were not able to be present. This banquet was quite a bit bigger than the previous one which you were able to attend.

We all feel much relieved now that the worst of the dangers to Cuba have subsided. We did what we could in Toronto and in Vancouver our committee was very active indeed.

Fraternally,

Vernel Olson.

Found in 1962

# FAIR PLAY
# Membership Meeting

ELECTION OF OFFICERS - OPEN DISCUSSION

Members - (voice and vote)

Non-members - (voice only)

## Lansdowne Hall — 10 Lansdowne

## 8 P.M. THUR. DEC. 13

PLUS

# CUBAN FILMS!

( about 9:30 P.M. )

THE BATTLE OF PLAYA GIRON - an exciting documentary of the invasion

DECLARATION OF HAVANA - see the vast crowds cheer

(English Translations)

Sponsored by The Fair Play For Cuba Committee, Toronto

Stopping trade with Cuba will be A BLOW TO THE HARD-PRESSED CANADIAN FARMER

Did you know: 60% of exported baby chicks, 75% of live poultry, and 80% of the live pigs exported from Canada WENT TO CUBA. Cuba is also our second best customer for breeding and dairy cattle.

## YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

IN THE past few weeks, a new wave of pressures has been building up, the aim of which is the ending of Canadian-Cuban trade. These pressures have existed, externally, for some time, but pressure from a new source has now come into existence. The Liberal Party, through the parliamentary arena, has been needling the Conservatives on the Cuba trade issue. Their conduct has amounted to red-baiting, rather humorous if the issue were not so serious. In Toronto, two of the largest daily papers have launched a vicious hate-Cuba campaign.

THE FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE can play a decisive role here. The Conservative government is testing the political winds in order to determine the "correct" course on this issue before the Federal Elections. Already, the Montreal Labor Council representing 160,000 unionists has passed a resolution in favor of continued trade with Cuba. Windsor Local 444 of the Autoworkers has done likewise.

IF YOU ARE IN a union, a N.D.P. club, a Home & School group, or any other organization where such a resolution can be passed, we urge you to act as quickly as possible. A sample of what such a resolution could look like is as follows:

### SAMPLE RESOLUTION

" The (Name of Organization) _____, meeting at (Place) _____, on (Date) _____, calls upon the Federal Government to reject the recent demands made upon it for the ending, or further curtailing of the existing trade between Cuba and Canada. We would further request the Federal Government to increase the present trade by increasing the amount of of goods purchased from Cuba and by the extension of long-term loans and credits to the Cuban government. "

Copies of your resolution should be sent to the Prime Minister, Hon. John Diefenbaker, and to the Fair Play For Cuba Committee.

(Found in 1963)

JANUARY 2nd SPEECH by Dr. Fidel Castro

Compiled by Cedric Belfrage, Editor in Exile, National Guardian

On the forth anniversary of the downfall of the tyranny, hundreds of thousands of Cuba's armed and besieged people gathered in Havana to parade the defenses of their Revolution and to listen to their leader. Fidel Castro spoke with great informality for an hour and a half, after a number of weeks during which his contact with the people took the form of chats with university students and militianos "in the trenches."

He called the recent "deal" over the Playa Giron prisoners "a historic event": imperialism had "agreed to pay our country the indemnity imposed by revolutionary tribunals" upon the invaders, though of course calling it by another name. In fact it had been the U.S. government, with the President's brother playing the chief role, that collected the indemnity. Imperialism had paid up "because it was defeated, because at Playa Giron they suffered their first great defeat in Latin America." And the great moment had come when-in the same airport in which planes from the U.S. had bombed to begin the attack in April, 1961 - U.S. planes began landing "like meek doves of peace, leaving cargoes of medicines and food for children."

Proceeding to read highlights of President Kennedy's speech to the released mercenaries in Miami, Castro observed that "no U.S. President ever so degraded the dignity of his office" as did Kennedy on that day. He pointed out that the mercenaries' presentation to Kennedy of their brigade flag, supposed to have been concealed after their defeat and smuggled out, was completely bogus: "Everyone knows they left behind everything including their underwear." Regarding Kennedy's assurance that "the flag will be given back to the brigade in a free Havana", Castro commented: "I don't know if maybe there is a bar in Miami called Free Havana."

Kennedy had praised the mercenaries as "following in the historic path" of Marti, Bolivar and O'Higgins. Castro recited a few simple facts about these heroes of the revolutions against Spain. "All the world knows that Marti did not get his funds from the Yanqui treasury"; penny by penny, from poor Cuban emigrants, Marti collected money to buy arms and after he had it the U.S. authorities seized it. "Marti did not come escorted by Yanqui ships nor preceded by Yanqui bombers" but disembarked in Cuba from a rowboat, almost alone.

The mercenaries, according to Kennedy, had "left behind six million of their compatriots who are in a very real sense in prison, for Cuba today is a prison surrounded by water." From the multitude in the Plaza de la Revolution, bristling with arms as no people was ever armed, the reading of this passage brought a storm of catcalls; Castro finally interpolated:"Didn't you know?" He continued to quote Kennedy "Castro and his dictatorial colleagues" who "can imprison bodies but not souls." "The revolution" (Castro quoting Kennedy) "promised the Cuban people political freedom, social justice, intellectual liberty, land for the peasants and the end of economic exploitation", and instead they were "captives" in a "police state". Said Castro ironically amid continuing catcalls: "We have not made a single social reform, neither agrarian nor urban reform, nor alphabetized a million illiterates, nor do we have some 100,000 scholarship-holders studying". He recalled that Cuban peasants formerly paid rent up to 50% of their production and asked if anyone now knew a single rent-paying peasant in all of Cuba. Regarding Kennedy's "curious" reference to ending economic exploitation as one of the "broken promises", Castro wondered:"Does this mean that the United Fruit, the electrical and telephone companies are still exploiting our people?"

"It is very curious," he went on, "to be hearing the chief of the Yanqui empire speak of economic exploitation, agrarian reform and such matters. When did he ever speak of these things before? Who taught him to speak this language? The Cubans!" Kennedy had even said that the U.S. and its Alliance for Progress supported the right of every free people freely to change its economic institutions." But that was "exactly what we have done and it is for having done it that we have earned the imperialists' hostility."

Returning to the Playa Giron mercenaries, Castro recalled that "everyone saw them on television" after their capture and "there wasn't one who didn't say he had been deceived. Afterwards they behaved like penitent Magdalens and in prison their leaders wrote long, interminable letters of repentance. The Revolution treated them generously, not because they deserved it but because those are our principles. Under the law their actions merited the death penalty but the sentence handed down permitted them to go in freedom if they indemnified our country for the damaged they caused. What the imperialists do not say is that, if they spent 20 months in prison, it was because of Yanqui phariseeism which didn't want to pay up." Had the imperialists not stalled and prevaricated when confronted with the bill, the men could have left after two months.

Castro reiterated Cuba's readiness for discussion of problems as equals with "concession for concession", and after its five-point demand for basic rights of security and sovereignty. He said: "When Mr. Kennedy threatened to use us as a nuclear target trying to intimidate us, what happened? The people said: 'Fatherland or death'...We can die, not because we do not value life, not because we don't see the shining future to which we have a right with our labor, but because the lives of us all are indissolubly linked with the idea and that future...without liberty, without dignity, we do not want life."

The Soviet government, he said, had made certain agreements in the interests of peace with the U.S. government; but that did not mean that Cuba renounced its right to whatever arms it deemed necessary, nor to any policy it deemed pertinent to a sovereign state. "Thus we do not accept unilateral inspection that they wanted to establish here...there was no inspection and there will be no inspection. If they want inspection let them allow themselves to be inspected too."

However, "without the solidarity of the socialist camp we would have been unarmed - for when we went to buy arms in a West European country they blew up the ship and killed about 50 of our workers and soldiers (referring to the Coubre incident in 1960). The imperialists prevented the sale of arms to us while they armed and trained their mercenaries. It was the socialist countries that provided us with all these arms."

Castro pinpointed the U.S. as "the only aggressor" and said the war danger in the Caribbean would disappear when it stopped its aggressive policy. "If the imperialists claim that we must stop being revolutionaries for peace to be restored - well, we shal not stop being revolutionaries. We are an example for the brother peoples of America. The captive peoples, Mr. Kennedy, are not the Cubans but the millions of Indians and Latin Americans exploited by Yanqui imperialism. Let them have arms as our people have and we will see what happens. Those whom you call captives are armed captives, captives with tanks, captives with planes. And the exploited Latin American millions, when they decide to fight, can do what we did."

Already some of the peoples, as in Venezuela, were "beginning to awake and fight - led by those revolutionaries who do not sit in the doorway waiting for the enemy's corpse to pass by but who understand that every revolutionary's first duty is to make the revolution."

January 21, 1963

Dear Friend,

Enclosed is a copy of "Cuba's Agrarian Reform", a speech by Dr. Fidel Castro, published by the FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE of Canada. The publication of 3000 copies of this important speech was made possible because a very good friend and active supporter of the Committee donated $250 for the project. At the time of writing another couple has promised $30 to go toward the circulation of the pamphlet and towards the next pamphlet, which we hope will be soon.

As far as we know, this is the first time that this speech has appeared in English. The translation was by Anne Olson. If you agree with us that this speech should be read by the greatest number of people, then we urge you to take advantage of the bulk order offer and make sure that your friends receive a copy. Bundle order: 5 copies - $1.00, 10 copies - $1.50. If you arenot a member of the Committee but appreciate receiving a copy of this pamphlet you may wish to send us 25¢ to cover the cost of printing and mailing.

The Committee intends to step up its publications program because the Canadian people have the right to more information about the developments in Cuba than the channels of mass media seem prepared to give. For example: the reportage of this speech last August was both scant and misleading.

Vernel Olson

Vernel Olson
Chairman

Brian Cousins
North Battleford, Sask.

Jan 26, 1963

Dear Brian,

Thank you very much for the letter. I have asked the Cuban Consul, who is in charge of the films, to send them to you right away. The last group to see them here was the Salvation Army.

I have the tape of meeting where Cedric Cox spoke after the return from Cuba. I could obtain a copy for you to borrow if you would be interested.

The list of speakers we are asking to come to Toronto include: William Worthy, Cedric Cox, I.F. Stone, Prof. Zeitlin.

Thank you again
Keep up the good work,

Bob Horn

(Found in 1963)

PRESS RELEASE

Fair Play for Cuba Committee of Canada
Box 923, Adelaide St. P.O.
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

For further information
Call Vernel Olson
RO 9-5882

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Toronto, Feb. 27 -- The Fair Play for Cuba Committee of Canada announced today that it is planning a tour to Cuba at Easter, which will cost from $250 to $300 for a one-to-two week stay at a luxury hotel in Havana and include air fare from New York, meals, entertainment and tours across Cuba.

Vernel Olson, chairman of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee in Toronto, said that the tour would begin on March 26th, with members returning either on April 2nd or 9th. The second week in Havana would only cost $50, he said. He also said there was a possibility that the committee -- Box 923, Adelaide St. P.O., Toronto -- would be able to arrange either lower prices for students with the Cuban Tourist Institute and the Cuban Institute of Friendship with All Peoples. Transportation to Cuba will be provided from New York's Idlewild Airport by jet-prop Britannias of Cubana Airlines.

Mr. Olson said the tour was open to all interested in seeing the new Cuba. Not only would the tour visit most of the island to see the achievements of the Revolutionary Government, tour members would have complete freedom to wander wherever they wanted and to talk with ordinary Cubans as well as government leaders.

He said that he had first visited Cuba during the Christmas holidays with some 340 persons on a U.S. Fair Play for Cuba Committee tour and had been overwhelmed by the warmth of the reception given the tour by the Cuban people.

Richard Gibson, Acting Executive Secretary of the U.S. Fair Play for Cuba Committee, which has its headquarters at 799 Broadway, New York, said he deplored the U.S. State Department's "unconstitutional ban on travel of U.S. citizens to Cuba," but he urged all Canadian citizens to go there for themselves to see what is really going on in Cuba today -- and to have a wonderful spring vacation as well.

The Fair Play for Cuba Committee of Canada maintains fraternal ties with the U.S. committee. In the U.S., FPCC chapters are functioning in 12 major cities, with student councils on more than 40 university and college campuses. The Canadian committee now has chapters in Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal, with another chapter being formed in Winnipeg.

# # #

Ont Sec

# *Medical Aid to Cuba Committee*

P.O. BOX 4, STATION B, TORONTO 2B, ONT.

*Secretary:*
Mr. J. Freedman, Suite 503,
515 Chaplin Cres., Toronto 12

*Treasurer:*
Mr. W. Sydney,
Telephone: 368-5336.

28

March 4 1963

Pat Mitchell
107 Quebec Ave
Toronto,9

Dear Friend;

The Medical Aid to Cuba Committee wishes to thank you for your generous donation to its work. Enclosed, you will find our receipt.

The work that our committee has undertaken is of great importance. Practically, it will supply a need that is most urgently required by the heroic people of Cuba. But, it is more than that. It is a message to the people of Cuba from the people of Canada assuring them of sympathy and support in their struggle to build a more happy and secure life for themselves.

We are enclosing one of our brochures in the hope that you will consider participating further in our mutual endeavor.

Sincerely yours,

W. Sydney
Treasurer.

Re - Friend

FPC Committee Publications

FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE

amis du peuple cubain

Box 923,
Adelaide St. P.O.
Toronto, Ontario,
April 3, 1963.

Dear Friend,

At the recent New Democratic Party rally in Toronto, the Fair Play for Cuba Committee sold 694 copies of the pamphlet, Four Canadians Who Saw Cuba. Distributing this pamphlet so widely to politically active Canadians, many of whom have never read pro-Cuban material before, is without a doubt one of the most valuable projects Fair Play has carried out.

The Committee very much appreciates the help you gave us on this project.

Sincerely,

Pat.

P. Mitchell,
Treasurer.

Be sure Jim + David see this letter.

Sept ....

.....
.....
.....

(Found in 1963)

Dear sir,

Having recently returned from a month-long visit to Cuba, I would like to offer my services for any panel or discussion on Cuba or Latin America which your organization may be planning.

I was able to gain a wide variety of impressions of Cuba durinn my stay there, both through the programme of the Cuban tourist agency and through the aid of Cuban and Canadian friends, who took me to see much that was not on the official tour. I ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ visited the exclusive yacht clubs and beaches of Havana, now filled with Cubans of every class and colour. I listened to Cubans complain about the "Castro dictatorship", and I visited a Cuban prison. I heard many discussions of the problem of bureaucracy, and I listened to inhabitants of Cuba's "First Socialist Village" explain how bureaucracy could be eliminated through democratic local control. I feel that in this way I gained a general understanding of the transformation taking place in Cuba which will be of great interest to Canadians.

My visit to Cuba was the continuation of a long interest in international affairs. Until 1960 I attended the University of Toronto Schools, where I was president of the Public Affairs Club and a member of the student council. For many years I was active in the high school Model United Nations, where I was a delegate and was elected a committee chairman. On my graduation I gained a scholarship to the University of Toronto, where I have been studying Political Science and Economics. I have held executive positions in the New Democratic Club and the Campaign for NuclearDisarmament, and I have recently been elected to the Historical Club there. I have also spent one year in Germany, studying History and Economics at the Universities of Freiburg and Frankfurt.

I cannot claim to be an "unbiased" observor of Cuba, for I have been most impressed by my experiences there. I do feel, however, that I have gained an understanding of the problems of the Cuban revolution, as well as of its achievements.

I would be glad to talk with a member of your organization if you are at all interested in my proposal.

sincerely yours,

John Riddell
38 Sussex Ave
WA 3 4567
Toronto 5

21 Ellis Gdns.,
Toronto 3, Ont.,
May 5, 1963.

Dr. Americo Cruz,
Embassy of Cuba,
112 Sherwood Drive,
Ottawa 3, Ontario.

Dear Dr. Cruz,

I am writing in regards to two items; first a report on the success of our sales of the new pamphlet FOUR CANADIANS WHO SAW CUBA, and second, the Cuban Embassy invitations to the coming 26th of July celebrations in Cuba.

Our initial press run of the FOUR CANADIANS.... pamphlet was 3500 of which 500 went to the Embassy. The remaining 3000 have been completely exhausted and we have now received delivery of another order of 2000 from the printers. The pamphlet is receiving circulation right across Canada. Six hundred and fifty have already been sold in Vancouver, 500 have been sent to Pioneer Publishers in New York, 700 were sold on the street by some 30 FPCC members to persons attending the NDP rally the 1st of April for leader T.C. Douglas, and several hundred more have already been sold in Toronto. An ad has been placed in the Sask. COMMONWEALTH and orders have been coming at the rate of over 30 per week for the pamphlet. These orders are being filled as fast as they arrive. An ad was also placed in the NATIONAL GUARDIAN in N.Y. and many copies have been sold across the U.S. Of 3000 copies of the previous pamphlet published by the Committee, CUBAS AGRARIAN REFORM, a speech by Dr. Fidel Castro, only 300 remain unsold.

I am attaching a list of persons from across Canada who should be considered for invitations to this 26th of July in Cuba. It is a small but important list. I have listed what I know about each individual and their worth for <u>our cause</u> on returning to Canada. The Committee would endeavour to publish another pamphlet on the basis of these invitations. I would draw special attention to the photographer from Toronto who could possibly give us some far ranging publicity, since he is a free-lance photographer and reporter.

Please give these names your careful consideration and inform me as to your decision in this matter. I might add that I do not know the availability of any of these people but I would be pleased to correspond with any that you might suggest. It is necessary for any responsible person to provided with from six to eight weeks advance notice of any pending invitation.

Fraternally,

c.c Sra. Julia Gonzales

Vernel Olson, Chairman.

FOR POSSIBLE INVITATION TO 26th OF JULY CELEBRATIONS , 1963

From Alberta: Mr. Floyd Johnson, 10502 - 77th Ave., Edmonton, Alberta; Was leader of the Alberta CCF prior to the founding of the NDP., a leftwing socialist, well known in Alberta.

Prof. Anthony M. Mardiros: 11622 - 76th Ave., Edmonton, Alberta. Wellknown NDP leftwinger, Professor of Philosophy at University of Alberta. Was sponsor of Committee in early days and never withdrew his sponsorship.

Dr. John Macdonald: University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta. on the executive of the Alberta NDP, a leftist.

Pat Ryan: Jasper Place, Alberta. A member of the Jasper Place Town Council, also a member of the Executive of the Alberta NDP.

From Saskatchewan: Dr. Ed. Mahood, 327 Lake Cres. Saskatoon, Sask. A medical Dr. who was a candidate in the last election, who was red-baited for his defense of Cuba. A well known leftist in Sask.

Frank Hanson: 1630 Quebec Street, Regina, Sask., Editor-in-Chief of The Prairie New Democrat COMMONWEALTH, official organ of the Sask NDP. This paper circulates over the three prairie provinces. The Commonwealth consistantly carries pro-Cuba material.

Dr. Rand: Department of Health, Regina, Sask. Heads up the Saskatchewan Governments medicare plan. A radical Doctor who operates against the reactionary interests of the Medical Organization.

From Manitoba: Donovan Swailes, 366 Lansdowne Ave., Winnipeg, Man. On the executive of theCanadian Labor Congress. Sponsored the Committee in the early days and has never withdrawn this support. An NDPer.

Howard Pawley: Stonewall, Manitoba. On the executive of the Manitoba NDP. Lawyer. Well known leftist in Manitoba. Was on executive of FPCC in Winnipeg when it was functioning.

Andy Robertson: 849 Valour Road, Winnipeg, Manitoba. Chairman of the Winnipeg Board of Education (has been for many years). Very well known and respected leftist (NDP). Took a principled public stand a few months ago over the school teacher who was vidited by the RCMP because he took a group of American students to the headquarters of the Communist Party in Winnipeg. An excellent person all around.

From Toronto: Michel Lambeth, 638 Church St., Toronto, Ont. A free-lance photographer whose material appears in Canadian publications. He is very interested in doing a photographic series on Cuba. Was and is very sympathetic to the Revolution.

From Quebec: Michel Chartrand, 3, St. Sylvestre, Longueuil, Que. Former leader of Quebec CCF. Trade Unionist, leftist. Was sponsor of Quebec FPCC in early days of Committee.

Gabriel Glazer: 5850 Souart St., Montreal, Que. Well known NDP leftist in Montreal. Former chairman of FPCC in Montreal. Subsequently developed concern about Communist Party influence in Cuba. A visit to Cuba might re-activate him.

found in 1963

# PICNIC

Celebrating the Cuban
26th of July

## SUN. July 29th - 2 PM

FOLKSINGING – *LA VALLÉE TRIO*

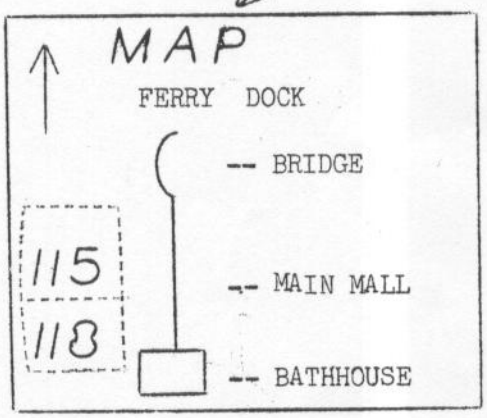
Sports

Guest Speakers

(bring your lunch)

## Centre Island

(areas 115 & 118)



Copy of Standard Letter

(Notations by R.D.)

21 Ellis Gardens
Toronto 3, Ont.
August 19, 1963

The Cuban Embassy
22 Mount Street
London W 2
England

Dear Friends;

The Canadian Fair Play for Cuba Committee is now publishing a pamphlet which we are confident will be of great interest to all English-reading people.

The pamphlet will contain a series of eight articles that the talented columnist Jack Scott wrote on his recent return visit to Cuba as a guest of the Cuban government. They originally appeared in one of Canada's leading daily newspapers, The Vancouver Sun. They are candid, witty, and warmly sympathetic to the Cuban Revolution.

Our previous pamphlet Four Canadians Who Saw Cuba won enthusiastic support. The Cuban Embassy at Ottawa purchased 1,000 copies. This pamphlet, which will be of the same high standard will no doubt be well received. We are now working out the press run. So that we can give those interested in bulk lots the benefit of the low price which would come from a large press run, if you were able to tell us what you think you could circulate through your offices--with no obligation---we would appreciate hearing from you. We would like this information just as soon as possible.

fraternally

Vernel Olson

We are enclosing a copy of our previous pamphlet so that you will have an idea of our standard. This pamphlet sold for .35 cents (Canadian) 40% discount.

Foreign - Editorial Correspondence

CONSULADO DE CUBA

LONDRES

No. 190 August 26th 1963

Me. Vernel Olson,
21 Ellis Gardens,
Toronto 3, Ont.
CANADA.

Dear Sir,

Thank you very much for your letter of the 19th August enclosing your pamphlet "Four Canadians Who Saw Cuba," which I have read with great interest.

As this office does not deal with the dissemination of literature which does not originate in Cuba, I would suggest that you write diredt to our Cultural Attaché at the Cuban Embassy in London. He is Mr. Pablo A. Fernandez, Cultural Attaché, The Cuban Embassy, 22 Mount Street, London, W1. Kindly send him samples of whatever literature you have already published, and you may rest assured of a prompt and co-operative reply.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

Julio del Castillo
Consul

From: The Earl Russell, O.M.,F.R.S.,
PLAS PENRHYN,
PENRHYNDEUDRAETH,
MERIONETH.
TEL. PENRHYNDEUDRAETH 242.

3 September 1963

Mr. Vernel Olson,
21, Ellis Gardens,
Toronto 3, Ontario,
Canada.

Dear Mr. Olson,

Thank you very much for your letter about William Worthy. I entirely support him and admire his efforts. I shall be writing to American newspapers and to "The Committee for the Freedom of William Worthy".

With good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Bertrand Russell

Bertrand Russell.

From: The Earl Russell, O.M., F.R.S.
Merioneth (Britain)

3 Sept4ember 1963

One of the most terrifying facts about our world is the utter dependence of its inhabitants upon the whims of a handful of men concerned with the technology of imminent annihilation. To many people, however, the willingness to engage in the wholesale extermination of populations, in the name of ‘’security,’’ is not part of a decent way to live. To a large extent, the likelihood of life or death through the insanity of nuclear war will follow from the freedom or lack of freedom to question and publically challenge the assumptions and policies of governments.

The United States Government has systematically bullied a smaller nation, namely Cuba, and has stuck at nothing to undermine, intimidate and destroy its Government. One of the consequences of an unjustifiably aggressive a policy is the hiding of the truth about the Government of Cuba, its policies, its philosophy and its popularity.

William Worthy is a spokesman for the right to question authority and the right to unbiased knowledge about political events. Despite every intimidation he has risked his freedom by travelling to Cuba and by reporting fairly on Cuba and world opinion.

I am appalled that for exercising his elementary democratic rights and for fulfilling his moral duty as a citizen and journalist, he now faces a sentence of up to five years imprisonment, in the course of appealing his sentence of three months.

On the right to inform Americans accurately and to uses liberty to challenge orthodoxy will rest the prospect for survival in this dark age.

Yours sincerely

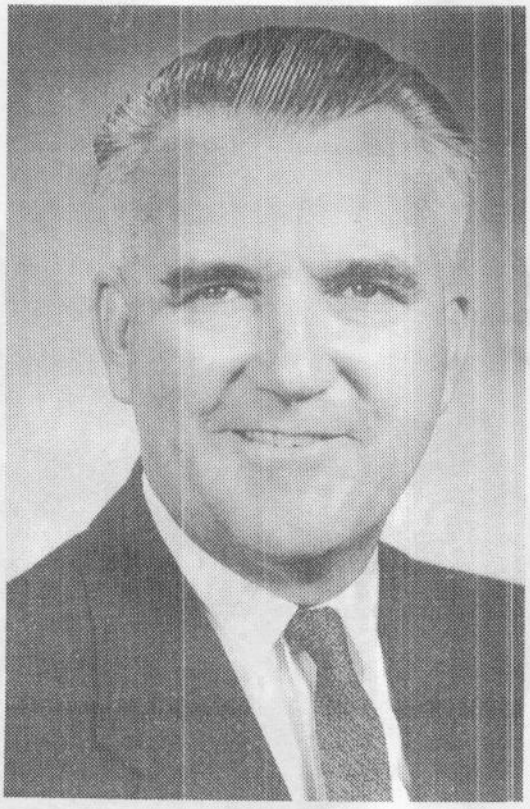
*(signed)* Bertrand Russell

(Found in 1962)

# "CUBA –

## Canadian View"

*speaker*



# Cedric Cox

- New Democratic Party member of British Columbia legislature whose visit to Cuba this year caused nationwide controversy.
- Chairman, Vancouver Chapter, Fair Play for Cuba Committee. Currently on cross country speaking tour.
- Trade unionist. Helped organize the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers Union in Canada.

**Friday, October 18** **8 P.M.**

**Debs Hall** **3737 Woodward**

*Auspices: Friday Night Socialist Forum*

(Labor Donated)

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***On Oct. 25, 8 P.M.***

***"LIBERALS, RADICALS AND THE FREEDOM NOW PARTY."***

25 Northampton Drive,
Islington, Ontario.

October 9th., 1963.

Mr. T.C. Douglas, M.P.,
The House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Douglas,

The purpose of this letter is to obtain aid for the people of the Caribbean including Cuba. I urge that our members in the house use every facility available to bring about all possible assistance to these people. I have made particular mention of Cuba as no consideration of political expediency should stand in the way of our humanitarian principles in this matter.

There can never be a more glaring case of need. The difficulties of Cuba due to the stress of the cold war are known. Now the total rice, cocoa and other crops have been destroyed while others have been reduced to an extent where human misery must immediately follow. Let us act in a forthright manner to relieve this distress.

I trust that you will send me a reply to this letter outlining the action our members propose to take in this matter so that I may advise the members of this riding accordingly.

Yours respectfully,

( David Middleton )
President
York West Riding Association
New Democratic Party

House of Commons
Canada

O t t a w a
October 21, 1963

Mr. Vernel Olson
21 Ellis Gardens
Toronto 3, Ontario

Dear Mr. Olson:

Your letter of August 15th with enclosures concerning William Worthy, Negro newspaperman, has just come to my attention. I am writing to inquire as to developments with respect to his case and if there is anything I can do at this late date to assist him.

Sincerely yours

Herbert W. Herridge

Herbert W. Herridge
Member for West Kootenay

21 Ellis Gardens,
Toronto 3, Ontario.

October 24, 1963.

Herbert W. Herridge, M.P.,
c/o P. O. Box 138,
House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Herridge:

Thanks for your letter dated October 21st regarding William Worthy, negro newspaperman.

My letter to you regarding the Worthy case was one of fifty letters sent to prominent Canadians in the hope that pressure could be brought to bear upon United States authorities who are very sensitive about international opinion, particularly regarding the negro question. Specifically I suggested writing to President Kennedy asking for leniency in regard to travel restrictions now imposed upon Worthy while appeal is pending. As you no doubt realize such a restriction is a severe one for a newspaperman. This was really the limit of my original suggestion.

Personally I believe that a protest would be in order regarding the case as such but this is a difficult suggestion to make to anyone in a form of a letter.

I do believe that any action you take even at this late date would be worthwhile, particularly in view of the prestige which goes with your office. We would appreciate it if you could send a copy of any correspondence to William Worthy and if you so wish to myself.

Sincerely,

Vernel Olson,

VO:cs

House of Commons
Canada

O t t a w a
October 29, 1963

Fair Play for Cuba Committee
Box 923 Adelaide St., P.O.
Toronto, Ontario

Dear Sirs:

This is to acknowledge and thank you for sending me the 25 copies of the publication "Jack Scott, Vancouver Sun Columnist 'Takes a Second Look at Cuba'".

Enclosed herewith is my cheque in the amount of $6.00 plus exchange to cover the cost of these booklets.

Thank you again.

Sincerely yours

Herbert W. Herridge
Member for West Kootenay

Encl.

(Found in 1963)

# SUSPEND THE BLOCKADE!

The following message has been sent to Prime Minister Diefenbaker by the Canada-Cuba Friendship Committee:

President Kennedy's announcement of a blockade of Cuba amounts to an act of war. It places the peace of the world in the gravest danger.

Canada and Canadians must act for peace. The alleged threat to the U.S. from Cuba is before the Security Council of the United Nations and may come before the General Assembly. These bodies will be asked to make an assessment of U.S. charges against Cuba.

Yet the unilateral blockade action of the U.S., before the United Nations can consider the situation, could in the meantime plunge the world into nuclear war.

The lives of all Canadians and of all other peoples are thus directly threatened by the latest U.S. move.

Your government should:

DEMAND THE IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION OF THE U.S. BLOCKADE OF CUBA
MAKE CANADA'S VOICE HEARD FOR PEACE.

To further contribute to a reduction of tensions, Canada should continue to maintain friendly and normal diplomatic relations with Cuba.

## 'A VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW'

The following message has been sent to T.C.Douglas, National Leader of the New Democratic Party, by the Canada-Cuba Friendship Committee:

We endorse your statement that the announced U.S. blockade of Cuba seems to be "a violation of international law" that "could lead to an incident that might precipitate a nuclear war."

We share your concern that the world must not be placed "into a dangerous position from which it would be impossible to retreat."

We agree with your assertion that "we have only the statements of the Americans to support this allegation" of Cuban missile bases and appreciate your reminder that "it shouldn't be forgotten that for the past 15 years the Western Powers have been ringing Soviet Russia with nuclear bases and with airports from which the Strategic Air Command could bomb any part of the Soviet Union."

With your recent election to Parliament, we urge you to do all in your power to press for an immediate suspension of the U.S. blockade of Cuba in the interests of peace.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD FOR PEACE

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JOIN THE PICKET-LINE NOW AT THE U.S. CONSULATE (UNIVERSITY ABOVE QUEEN)

---

Canada-Cuba Friendship Committee, P.O.Box 664, Adelaide St. Post Office
Toronto.

House of Commons
Canada

O T T A W A

November 19th, 1963

Mr. Vernel Olson,
21 Ellis Gardens,
TORONTO 3, Ont.

Dear Mr. Olson:

Thank you very much for your letter of October 26th addressed to my assistant.

I have written to the U.S. Ambassador, as you suggest, requesting that consideration be given to allowing Mr. William Worthy Jr., to travel abroad while his appeal is being considered.

I will let you know what sort of an answer I receive.

Yours sincerely,

T. C. Douglas

T. C. Douglas

21 Ellis Gdns.,
Toronto 3, Ont.,
Nov. 20, 1963.

Bob & Edith Sixlverman,
3590 Ridgewood Ave.,
Apt. # 502,
Montreal, Que.

Dear Bob & Edith,

We have now straightened out plans for your visit to Toronto. We are planning on a FPCC meeting Tuesday evening Dec. 3rd, and the Vanguard Forum Friday Dec. 6th. Somewhere in between we will arrange a couple of campus meetings. I have spoken to our people about this. You should arrange to arrive in Toronto the afternoon of the 3rd at the latest. We are making arrangements to put you both up Tues through Friday.

At the FPCC meeting and probably also at the Vanguard Forum, you should both plan to speak. Of particular interest would be some insight into life on the campuses, the political life of students, the impact of the Revolution etc. Also of interest would be the political situation in general, giving some information on the evolution of political development of the masses, political currents and tendencies etc. This is the way we would like to bill you both. What do you think?

We are also anxious to talk at length with you both prior to our visit. We will be leaving on Sat. morning, Dec. 7th. We have a lot of Committee work to do before then.

We were wondering what sort of accomation you and Edith have in Havana. Would it be too outrageous for me to suggest that we stay at your place, at least until you get back? We have no assurance of any assistance while there and we are trying desperately to find ways to cut expenses. Another thought was Rob and Mabel, but they are not back yet from China, and according to a letter we had today from a friend of theirs, they may be away a good part of the time we are there. Let us know what you think.

Regards,

Vernel Olson,
Chairman.

TO THE PRESS:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE NOVEMBER 23 / 63

The members, friends and supporters of the Canadian Fair Play for Cuba Committee are shocked like everyone else around the world by the assassination of the President of the United States J. F. Kennedy and we extend our condolences to his family.

The daily press and particularly the most irresponsible and sensationalist sections of it, through reports of previous association with the American Fair Play for Cuba Committee of the person presently charged with the assassination are attempting to create a lynch atmosphere against the Committee.

Attempts are being made to link the committee to the assassination, suggesting that in some way its activities lead to such monstrous actions. We would bring attention to the fact that the person charged with this act is innocent until proved guilty and we warn that circumstances surrounding the case, and the campaign arising from it, are highly suspicious and cause us to be on guard to see that justice is done. We declare that there is no truth whatsoever in the campaign of innuendo and abuse that has been launched against the committee either in the U.S. or Canada.

The committee has of course expressed serious disagreement with the late president of the United States. These disagreements however, like those expressed by many others in the U.S., here, and elsewhere, had nothing to do with the person of J. F. Kennedy or his family. They had to do with the policies of the administration which he headed specifically in so far as they interfered with the legitimate rights and aspirations of the Cuban people and of course the interests of the people of Canada.

As anyone with even the most superficial acquaintance with the work of the committee knows, the aims of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee are educational and political and are expressed through channels properly belonging to such aims. We hold public meetings, many of which have been addressed by eminent Canadians. We publish, along with other material, speeches by Cuba's Premier Fidel Castro which are relatively unknown to North Americans and are often monstrously distorted. Our most recent activity has been the raising of funds to help the Cuban people overcome the losses that they suffered in the recent hurricane disaster. All our work has been open and above board and there is nothing that we welcome so much as an interest on the part of any and all Canadians in it. The aim of our committee is what it says it is -- Fair Play for Cuba. We will continue our work with the support of all those who have shown an interest in it and we are confident of the good will and sympathy of a widening layer of Canadians.

SIGNED,

Vernel Olson,
Chairman, Fair Play for Cuba Committee

For further information, phone RO 9-5882 or write Box 923, Adelaide St. P.O., Toronto 1.

bulletins




...we'd like to get to know you

WON'T YOU COME TO A SOCIAL EVENING at Vern Olson's house, 21 Ellis Gardens (Queen St. W. at High Park), on Saturday, Nov. 30, anytime after 8? Contributions of $1 will go to the Committee to help sponsor some other activities.



TO: FAIR PLAYERS AND FRIENDS

we're sending out the word...

Found in 1963

# FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE

## will hold its Annual




8 PM SHARP!
TUESDAY
NOV 26
CARPENTER'S
HALL, 169 GERRARD E. at Allen Gardens

BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

# Report of Finances

# Report on Hurricane Relief Fund

# Report on Membership.

# General report on activities this past year.

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# Election of officers for the coming year.

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GUEST SPEAKER
JOHN RIDDELL

A University of Toronto student, John was in Cuba for one month this summer and has many interesting things to say about the development of Cuban democracy.

21 Ellis Gardens
Toronto
December 6, 1963

The Peace Center News

Editor

It was shocking to read a paragraph in appendix 3 of your Nov.25 issue on the assassination of President Kennedy dealing specifically with the Fair Play for Cuba Committee.

I say your comments are shocking advisedly. For hasn't the anti-nuclear arms movement of which you are a part been smeared from one end of the country to the other as a "red front", as "infiltrated" with "advocates of force and violence", even by such a person as the former minister of justice himself, who, if I recall correctly, even characterized it as "treasonous."?

Yet you who know from sad experience the foul purpose of red-baiting and the injustices that flow from it indulge in it in this article against Fair Play and one particular tendency in the labor movement that with others supports the general aim of our committee.

When you drag the Fair Play for Cuba Committee into the assassination of President Kennedy aren't you indulging in the vicious practice of guilt by association? And what do you mean by saying that the committee is "notoriously infiltrated by Trotskyists"? To be sure Trotskyists, as Stalinists, NDPers, Liberals, Tories, Catholics, Protestants are members of Fair Play. No one infiltrates it. The aims of the committee are clear and it is open without discrimination and without privilege to all who are prepared to further its aims.

I think it unnecessary to proclaim what the committee's views are on violence and particularly on the connotation of the word at this time when the world is horrified by the violence perpetrated against the person of the president of the United States. I think many of your readers joined with us on the picket against the violence at the Bay of Pigs.

What do you hope to gain, or is it just sheer irresponsibility and light-mindedness when you smear the Trotskyists and the Chinese government to boot with the old canard that has been directed since time immemorial against forces advocating fundamental social change. I'll tell you this--by such actions you only embolden those who are viciously opposed to the aims of your own organization and would like to see it destroyed. History has proven this to be so.

sincerely

Vernel Olson
chairman Fair Play for Cuba
Committee

21 Ellis Gdns.,
Toronto 3, Ont.,
Canada,
Feb. 5, 1964.

Alan Harris,
361 Stanstead Road,
London SE. 6,
England,

Dear Alan,

Thanks for your letter of January 29th last. Pat gave it to me last night. Last night the gang sent you another 50 copies of the Fuentes and also 50 copies of Cubas Road to Peace.

It took a while, but we are not back in harness again after a glorious five weeks in Cuba. I am sorry to say that our meeting Fidel was all a very nice rumour, but still a rumour. I don't know where it came from but it seemed to originate in our own house. I did not meet Fidel while there although we tried very hard at the very end. Our trip was very fruitful though just the same. We had some very interesting interviews and were able to get a very good picture of the political situation,

Things have changed a great deal since the middle of 61. This was prior to the ouster of Escalante by about eight months. The sectarians have been badly routed in most fields, and a strong anti-sectarian tendency exists in Cuba with varying degrees of consciousness. Trotskyism is no longer a bad word. In fact, the CPer have done us a very good service by labelling the FPCC as Trotskyist, because the Committee has a very good name in Cuba on the basis of the good work we have done. We are putting out a volume of work to be expected of a full time Committee. I had some very revealing interviews with Cubans in important positions and the comversations were amazingly frank.

There is no doubt that the Cuban Revolution is the center of a new revolutionaryforce centered in Latin America, a revolutionary current I might say that is very close to us and is in the process every day of growing consciousness of this fact. I presented myself in Cuba as a Trotskyist without offending anyone, least of all pepple in high posts.

A brother of Peter Lennox in Toronto who lives in a suburb of Leeds has been receiving our material and is anxious to be more effective in his pro-Cuba work. I am going to write him but I think you should contact him and put him in touch with others in Britain. He is interested in forming a Committee of some type. Could you write him or otherwise contact him? James Lennox, 27 Slaithwaite Ave., Thornhill-Lees, Dowsbury, Yorks, England. Also, do you know or know of Jimmy Johnson, a leader of a split from the CP who has a group in Glasgow not in the SLL?. We are publishing the Jan. 2nd speech of Fidel's. It will be out soon. Will send a bundle as soon as available.

Warmest regards,

(Olson address)

FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE

Box 923, Adelaide St. P. O.,
Toronto 1, Ontario.

February 12, 1964.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp,
Minister of Trade & Commerce,
House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Sir,

The Fair Play for Cuba Committee hails the trade agreements which have recently been concluded between several countries and the Republic of Cuba.

The French Government has set an important precedent by guaranteeing 80% of a $10 million order for trucks, tractors and spare parts from the Berliet Motor Co. The Leyland Motor Co. in England has also concluded a long-term contract for the sale of $11 million worth of buses to Cuba. These, plus other trade agreements, are important sign posts leading to a break in the defacto economic blockade of Cuba by Western countries.

We appreciate the fact the Canada has continued to trade with Cuba despite pressures from south of the border. This trade, however, has been on the decline, a situation which the Canadian economy can ill afford. Canada has the highest unemployment rate of any highly industrialized country in the world.

We are sure that the Canadian people would welcome any move by the Federal Government to stimulate and greatly increase trade between Cuba and Canada. Canadian industry could supply much of the industrial equipment which Cuba needs and is now buying from Europe. The Canadian people would in turn benefit by the purchase of Cuban sugar, a move which would undoubtedly lower the high price of sugar on the Canadian market.

Before the present volume of trade can be significantly increased, it will be necessary for the Federal Government to extend long-term loans and credits to the Cuban Government, loans which could be used to guarantee the sale price of Canadian goods to Cuba, similar to the action of the French Government.

Sincerely,

Vernel Olson,
CHAIRMAN

VO:cs
cc: Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson

MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
CANADA

OTTAWA, February 18, 1964

Mr. Vernel Olson,
Chairman,
Fair Play for Cuba Committee,
Box 923,
Adelaide St. P.O.,
Toronto, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Olson:

Thank you for your letter of February 12th.

I appreciate your taking the time to let me have the views of the Committee on these matters.

Yours sincerely,

Mitchell Sharp

Mitchell Sharp

Bob Horn
3514 Jeanne Mance
Montreal 18

****

until March 1, then: 3566 Lorne Ave
Apt 5
Montreal 18

13 Fev., 1964

Greetings Verne,

As you know from the phone call Michele made last night, I was up to see him about the F.P.C.C. and the conference this summer. When I gave him a copy of the letter by Paquin he said he knew about it and that he was supposed to contact the F.P.C.C (*) He did raise his eyebrows as he was reading the letter, which I would like to believe indicates he is learning something about the tactics of the C.P. He is very soft and naive about them, assuring me that he had a promise from Paquin that there would be no factionalism and discrimination. Julia has said she intends to set him straight about the C.P. here and the position of the Cuban officals here concerning the C.P.'s attempt to take over the direction of the conference and corrupt its line. She feels that FLAP has no business having a representative on the executive planning committee for the conference, that they do not have Cuba in their name , they are not interested in it, and have been trying to avoid the issue of Cuba.

Michele said Paquin suggested to him that he (Michele) ;as a French representative and yourself, English speaking; be on the executive planning committee which will begin to meet in March to plan the conference when some other representatives arrive from Latin America. We should have a person on the planning committee. Could we work it to have you here for the important sessions and for you to have a representative, either Dick or myself, at the lesser sessions if they are numerous and the situation warrents? Dick is free to a limited extent during the day but has talked of taking a leave of absence for a period to concentrate upon university. I would be free a great deal as I most likly would be on shift work begining in March, alternating weekly between day, night, and afternoon work.

Michele expressed admiration for Gandhi when I was attacking its corrupting influence in the peace movement here, I pity the French workers if we do not organize a Bolshevik leadership here soon.

(*) about the conference.

He has made use of his numerous and broad contacts here for trade with Cuba and setting up a summer student exchange program. In great demand as a speaker, he creates great and sustained publicity for Cuba, before business and Catholic organizations, What he could do if he had a more astute political understanding. He passes off the differences in the socialist movements as being unimportant, at least outside of the PSQ, perhaps this has been good for us in that there is no discrimination against us yet, in the PSQ.

I have been lucky enough to contact a woman and a man, both about 19, who will do political work and are developing their revolutionary philosophy. Dick has a couple of student contacts who will mostlikely develop and participate in work, though on a limited basis time wise.

Michele was disgusted at the New Left for disolving the F.P.C.C. and is going to revive it. He is going to approach French "names"; and with his contacts and our help in the English sphere there should be no problem there. Does the name of Bruce Robinson on our F.P. executive here mean anything to you? He is one of the officials in the Q.C.N.D., father of my contact, carried an ant-NATO fight in the organization, worked for the NDP, a competent insurance executive, joined the P.S.Q., has no use for the C.P. but considers himself an "intellectual communist". He feels the peace movement is through and if he would join our executive he might develop politically as well as be a tremendous asset.

Bruce Robinson, 624 Murray Hill, Westmount (Mtl.) HU 4-4863 .

The objective situation is ready to explode and the only valid subjective factor to meet it fully is us, vividly illustated with each tendency I examine here. Even the P.S.Q. is crisis ridden, the lazy intellectuals who want to discuss endlessly, paralyzing the movement.

Michele said he would write a major article, or transcribe one of his speeches for us to use in a pamphlet. The material on the "freedom of art" debate in Cuba has not yet come to him.

X In philosophy and organizational concepts even though we are microscopic in size.

I hope everything is going well with the family and the committee. Give my regards to all.

Bob

(Hora)

21 Ellis Gardens,
Toronto 3, Ont.

March 4, 1964.

Malcolm M. Campbell,
2103 - 7 St. E.;
Saskatoon, Sask.

Dear Malcolm,

The Committee has made and the Cubans have accepted a proposal for a group of 20 to 30 students to go to Cuba during the summer vacation period. It is our hope that this will be an all Canadian group with students from the major campuses in Canada.

While details are not vet available, the plan is to leave sometime during the month of June and return not later than September 10th. The students will go bv boat from Montreal but the freighter holds onlv about a dozen persons; therefore, there will be more than one departure date.

We have suggested to the Cubans that the group would like to take on a work project which could be completed during the group's stav in Cuba. There would, of course, be an allotment of time for sight-seeing and meeting with Cubans.

Since space is limited, it will be necessarv to make certain selections of applicants. Could vou please take this matter under consideration and consult with contacts vou mav have among the vouth, and give us some idea how manv students would be interested in this project.

There will be more details available in the next few davs. In the meantime it is necessarv to move as fast as possible. We are discussing the possibilitv of a nominal fee for each interested student to be used to equalize the cost of transportation to Montreal.

I look forward to vour co-operation in this matter.

Fraternallv,

Vernel Olson,
Chairman.

21 Ellis Gdns.,
Toronto 3, Ont.,
March 15, 1964.

Michel Chartrand,
3 St. Sylvestre,
Longueuil, Que.

Dear Michel,

You should have received your return ticket by now. All I ask is this. Do not tell the NDY that your ticket has been paid, because I assumed this responsibility personally. They should pay you for the full value of the ticket. If they cannot meet the full responsibility, the FPCC will cover the rest.

The following has been arranged:

- You will be met at the airport in Toronto at 10:15 AM.
- You will speak to the University of Toronto Canadien Club at 1:00 PM Thursday, on French Canada and all that means to you.
- In the evening a FPCC meeting, a leaflet enclosed,
- Friday evening, a meeting on French Canada for the NDY. I don't have a copy of their leaflet.
- A possible York University meeting on French Canada Friday noon.
- We are working on interviews etc. for in between hours as well as a conference with Prof. Dewart.
- Saturday morning you will spend with us and we will take you to the airport.

I do not know yet who will meet you at the airport so if you are missed on the first run through, go the the TCA information desk and announce yourself. There should be no serious trouble.

Looking forward to seeing you this week-end.

Fraternally,

Vernel Olson,
Chairman.

ABC TELEVISION INTERVIEW Sunday, March 22, 1964

**Che Guevara on ABC TV "ISSUES AND ANSWERS"**

("You have a tendency to make declarations in the form of questions. And again, I have first to refute your declaration and then answer the question.")

*This is the first exclusive interview with Major Ernesto "Che" Guevara, Cuban Minister of Industries, seen and heard in the United States. Feeling that a portrait of the man who has been called "The power behind Castro," "The architect of the Cuban Revolution," "The top leftist in Cuba," and the man who may succeed Castro, would have meaning to the American people, ABC sent its cameras and Lisa Howard to Cuba for this filmed interview with Major Guevara in his offices in the Ministry of Industries in Havana. (Complete text of interview follows:)*

MISS HOWARD: How seriously is the economic blockade affecting the Cuban economy?

MAJOR GUEVARA: I can't give you an exact figure of the effect of the blockade on Cuba, and, believe it or not, but the blockade has good and bad effects. Among the good ones is the development of the national awareness and the fighting spirit of the Cuban people to overcome – that all of our Cuban machinery was made in the United States, and that your secondhand machinery was dumped on us as well, and at a profit, and many of these lines of supply have been discontinued now, then you can realize what this blockade has put us up against and the effort required to counteract it. Figures can not be given. I don't know them. But obviously it has been a serious drawback. But at the same time, it has been a helpful lesson to us. It has taught us how to manage our economy in the future. I think this more or less answers your question.

MISS HOWARD: Russia is pouring a great deal of money into the Cuban economy each day. Now what would happen to the economy of the island if that aid suddenly stopped?

MAJOR GUEVARA: These statements of daily amounts are, I think, typical of the American way of thinking and the concept you have, of investment. It may in fact reflect somehow the idea of what Americans understand as "aid." American aid to the countries of South America finally revert against the state receiving the assistance. In our case there has been what would be called aid, such as the writing off of certain trade debts, long-term loans, but granted on a purely commercial basis. As for the rest, it is the normal, natural trade between two countries. The United States is no longer the main import-export customer of Cuba. It is the Soviet Union.

Now if, with your questions, you are asking what would happen should Soviet aid stop, you refer to all our exchange, then I can answer the life of the country would be paralyzed because — for example oil, all of our oil, almost four million tons, comes from the Soviet Union, but that is not assistance – that is trade exchange on a basis of absolute equality and we pay for it with sugar and other products.

MISS HOWARD: Would you assess for us how effective has the United States' blockade been?

MAJOR GUEVARA: I think that you are almost inviting me to leak confidential information to you. We have recognized the importance of the blockade, but we have also stated with the same calm (way) that the blockade was not going to prevent us from advancing. But first of all it is difficult to be specific about it, and then it is not very appropriate, either. After all, in spite of your good intentions, we are still enemies. And the enemy should really only know generalities about the other party.

MISS HOWARD. Cuba has recently purchased buses from London. You are negotiating for ships from Spain. I understand there is an economic mission in Switzerland. Does this represent for you a fundamental change in the Cuban economy?

MAJOR GUEVARA: I do not think so. I think there has been a change in the economic policy of some countries. There has been a certain breaking up of the so-called monolithic unity of the free world. There is more trade with Cuba now. Our commercial eagerness has always been on the same basis. In other words, merchandise is merchandise and it should be to the mutual (benefit of) buyer and the seller. And on that basis we have traded with the whole world, including the United States, even after we severed our relations.

The United States had used great pressure to stop certain goods being sold to us, and you know full well the debate that was held and the discussions that took place because Leyland sold us buses. But actually it is not we who have changed. Certain aspects of international politics have changed. I don't know whether we have anything to do with that. I don't think so. I don't think we are that important.

MISS HOWARD. Do you feel that these purchases represent a failure of the United States' blockade?

MAJOR GUEVARA: Yes.

HOWARD: A serious failure?

MAJOR GUEVARA: That depends on how it affects the American ego, that of the United States.

MISS HOWARD: Major Guevara, do you believe that this trade with the West that you are now engaged in will continue and perhaps expand in the near future?

MAJOR GUEVARA: I hope so. Naturally it doesn't only depend on our wishes but also on the wishes of the people with whom we trade today. But I do have hopes that it will continue and that we will enter a new era as far as relations with Cuba are concerned. That the countries of Europe have realized the importance of having relations with all countries of the world and that Cuba is a good market, a market that is reliable, stable, and in one word, a permanent market.

So that everything leads us to hope that these relations will go on and that they will expand in the future. We are extremely interested in this. We have since closed deals for the purchase of complete plants with certain countries, with France, with England, with Japan. We feel that in the future we can continue this type of transaction and with greater security, because in the past there was always the fear, if trade relations were interrupted, how were we to obtain spare parts, but especially England and France have maintained very good relations with us in this respect. They have guaranteed the supply of spare parts for the equipment we bought from them during the revolutionary stages.

This has also strengthened our confidence in the possibility of importing new machines and then, with first class technical equipment of the latest models, to build up a whole series of industries which we are now developing.

MISS HOWARD: What would happen to the Cuban economy if this trade with the West were suddenly cut off?

MAJOR GUEVARA: Nothing.

MISS HOWARD: Now there will be a brief pause and in a moment we will be back with more ISSUES AND ANSWERS.

MISS HOWARD: Major Guevara, much external evidence indicates that the Marxist system of economics simply doesn't work. It doesn't provide a bountiful life for its people. After 47 years of trial, the Soviet Union still can not feed and house and clothe their people properly. Do you think it is possible that the Marxist system just doesn't provide the proper incentive to create a really high level of productivity?

MAJOR GUEVARA: You have a tendency to make declarations in the form of questions. And again, I have first to refute your declaration and then answer the question. You say that it has been proved that Marxism, or the Marxist system does not provide the people with what they need and insure their well-being. I think it is just the opposite. If we compare the United States' standard of living with that of other countries then we must recognize that the other countries are lower, but when you speak of the American way of life and that of the free world, you've got to consider the 200 million people in Latin America who die of hunger, who die of diseases, who do not even reach adulthood, who die as children, starving. All these people contribute to the economic greatness of the United States that exploits them in one way or another. The same happens in Africa and it happened in Asia, as well. Marxism ends all that. At the same moment when we are being besieged by American imperialism, we can not offer our people all the things we would like but we have given them all we could, all we have been able of doing, so far, and on

equal footing, from Ministers to the lowest official of the government. And that is the main reason why the people continue to fight for their liberation.

MISS HOWARD: But the United States government is quite aware of the problems in Latin America, and through the Alianza is trying very hard to lift the standard of living of the people throughout the hemisphere. Now if the ruling classes agree to make land reforms and tax reforms and if the living standards are raised, won't the message of the Cuban revolution lose its effectiveness?

MAJOR GUEVARA: Of course it would lose it right away. The message of the Cuban revolution has that meaning because through its own weight, imperialism can only carry out lukewarm reforms which do not go to the very root of the problems. If all of Latin America were freed from imperialist domination, then imperialism itself would face very serious problems. The foundation of imperialism is the domination of Latin American countries through unequal exchange, through the exchange of manufactured goods for raw materials, the taking over of key posts in the governments through the national oligarchies – subservient to imperialisms

Now if all this were to be changed, imperialism would have lost its strength. It, then, would face the general crisis of capitalism. In other words, the crisis from the working class within its own country.
Although this is not so imminent in your country because exploitation of the working classes is transferred to Latin America, Africa and Asia, but then the conflict would be directly within the United States. Obviously the message of the Cuban revolution would lose all of its importance, but it wouldn't be needed either, because that is precisely what we desire for all our people in Latin America, and once that was achieved, there would be no further need to launch messages. It would have no meaning.

MISS HOWARD: So in our desire for these reforms, we agree?

MAJOR GUEVARA: True reforms, for the access of the people to power. Then we agree.

MISS HOWARD: Major Guevara, do you feel this can't come about through an evolutionary process or must it come about through violence and revolutionary upheavals?

MAJOR GUEVARA: That, of course, depends upon the reactionary classes. It is they who refuse to give up power, to hand over the reins of power. Where the reactionary classes insist on holding on to power, outside of the will of all, the spark will break out and it may well set the whole of Latin America on fire, and the people will come to power,

MISS HOWARD: Major Guevara, since the success of the revolution, the Cuban economy according to all reports has seriously deteriorated in every sector. Industrial output, the vegetable crop, the sugar harvest last year which hit a low of three and a half million tons. How do you account for this economic regression?

MAJOR GUEVARA: Well, again that question is a statement. So the first thing that must be done is to refute the statement and then answer the question. You say that all aspects of the Cuban economy have deteriorated during the course of the revolution, and I say you are wrong. The industrial output increased since 1959 and it could have increased much more had it not been adversely affected by the sugar industry which has in fact decreased. The industrial output has increased at an annual rate of seven percent, of course, not counting sugar. And the increase for 1963 and the estimates for 1964 show an even higher rate. For 1963, it amounted to ten percent, and the estimates for 1964 will even be higher and the sugar output will also increase.

MISS HOWARD: Major Guevara, when you were fighting in the hills of the Sierra Maestra did you foresee that the revolution would take so radical a turn?

MAJOR GUEVARA: Intuitively, I felt it. Of course, the course and the very violent development of the revolution couldn't be foreseen. Nor was the Marxist-Leninist formulation of the revolution foreseeable. That was the result of (what we) know very well. (A reference here to the Bay of Pigs attempted invasion of Cuba, after which Castro made his famous speech on Marxism-Leninism –ed.) We had a more or less vague idea of solving the problems which we clearly saw affected the peasants who fought with us, and the problems we saw in the lives of the workers. But it would be very long to recount the

whole process of the transformation of our ideas.

MISS HOWARD: There is a conviction in the United States that Major Guevara was one of the most radical influences in the revolution and that he pulled Dr. Castro to the left. What happened here was partially his blueprint. Does he accept or deny that?

MAJOR GUEVARA: For a long time in the United States and in many other countries I have been given the honor of being considered the brain of the revolution, the cold mastermind, the leftist, the power behind the throne. Well, personally speaking I wouldn't be bothered about this, but my honesty as a revolutionary, my innate modesty and honesty force me to confess that the top leftist in Cuba is Fidel Castro and that the greatest danger to the United States in Cuba is the danger of Fidel, and not me.

MISS HOWARD: In the hills of the Sierra Maestra, when Fidel Castro said he was not a Communist, did you believe that he was not a Communist and that he would not become a Communist?

MAJOR GUEVARA: I knew he was not a Communist, but I believe that I also knew that he would become a Communist. Just as I knew at that time that I was not a Communist but I also knew that I would become one within a short time., and that the natural development of the revolution would lead all of us to Marxism-Leninism. I can not say that it was a clear, or conscious knowledge, but it was an intuition, the result of an examination of careful assessment of the development of the attitude of the United States and the way in which your country acted at that time against us and in favor of Batista.
MISS HOWARD: If something were to happen to Fidel Castro, what do you think would be the fate of the Cuban revolution and whom do you think would accede to power here?

MAJOR GUEVARA: From your question I presume that you refer to something violent happening to him. Well, we can't deny it would be a very serious blow to the Cuban revolution. Fidel is our leader, unchallenged and undisputed. He has been our true guide through a series of very, very difficult situations that Cuba has had to face, and at that time he gave proof of his stature as a world leader. I don't think any of us has that stature, but we have acquired revolutionary experience in the years of fighting side by side with him. We have become what we became through going through the same school with him, a school of courage, boldness, sacrifice, of determination to defend our principles, of analysis of the different problems. And I think that altogether we could, I think, limp on, even if something were to happen to him.

Now as to who would replace him, well that would have to be discussed at that time. We can't indulge in that sort of "iffish" history now. None of us have that sort of political aspiration, but logically, his brother Raul, not because he in his brother, but because of his own qualifications — he is the Deputy Prime Minister and naturally would be the one most suitable among us to follow the same path of the Cuban revolution.

MISS HOWARD: Major Guevara, Dr. Castro has often expressed his desire to normalize relations between Cuba and the United States. Do you desire such a normalization of relations?

MAJOR GUEVARA: If it is based on principles, yes. And I perhaps more than anyone else because industry is the one that suffers most from the blockade. Industry and transport are perhaps the sectors of production which are hardest hit by the blockade. Transport has more or less freed itself but not industry and therefore on the basis of principles and total equality, the normalization of relations would be ideal to us.

MISS HOWARD: Are you optimistic about the possibility of a normalization of relations between Cuba and the United States?

MAJOR GUEVARA: I think it is a difficult question to answer. We are watching. We are waiting. We are planning for either one road or the other, whichever is followed. It depends on a series of circumstances, the very characteristics of the American government. It also depends on how the American government is able to gauge the situation in the world. So far your government hasn't given any clearcut idea that it does know how to weigh the correlation of forces in the world so that there are no clear ideas regarding the total normalization.

MISS HOWARD. Now there will be a brief pause and in a moment we will be back with more ISSUES AND ANSWERS.

MISS HOWARD: What would you like to see the United States do, as regards Cuba?

MAJOR GUEVARA: It is very difficult to give a precise answer. It is somewhat unrealistic, as a question. Perhaps the most frank and objective answer would be: Nothing. Nothing in all respects. Nothing for or against us. Just leave us alone.

MISS HOWARD: Thank you very much, Major Guevara.

21 Ellis Gardens,
Toronto 3, Ontario.

March 25, 1964.

Michel Chartrand,
3 St. Sylvestre,
Longueuil, (P.Q.)

Dear Michel:

Since you were here last weekend I have received word from Vancouver about the May Day Committee that has invited you to speak. Here is the situation.

The May Day Committee is quite a broad committee and as presently constituted for the coming meeting has the support of Bert Herridge and Cedric Cox, as well as Dorothy Steeves who will be on the platform. There is also a distinct possibility that Dave Stupich, MLA and Leo Nimsick, MLA will also participate in the program. While there are other forces in the united front the Committee is becoming a rallying point for the left wing of the NDP in B.C. In my opinion, it would be quite alright for you to participate but it might be well for you to stipulate that either Stupich or Nimsick be definitely committed to participate. Under these conditions you need have no concern about the public image of the sponsorship.

Here are some of my thoughts about the subject in general. Of course, your participation would give the meeting a very broad character and would go a long way toward giving the meeting the popular support it deserves. There is a left wing in B.C. within the NDP which is trying to find itself politically and organizationally and you would help them considerably by accepting their invitation. If you do accept I think you should go there with the idea of trying to convince the left wing of the progressive nature of the nationalist movement in Quebec and in particular of the tremendously progressive nature of the PSQ development. This is, in my opinion, not only an opportunity but a duty. You must realize the great impetus the left development in Quebec would give to the English speaking part of Canada. The PSQ and its leaders have a responsibility to the socialist movement in the rest of Canada: they have a responsibility to win over the most advanced sections of this movement.

I would be interested in hearing your decision of this matter. Warmest regards.

Fraternally yours,

VO:os

Vernel Olson

Box 923
Adelaide Street Post Office
Toronto 1, Ontario

March 31, 1964

Mr. Bob Horn
Workers Vanguard
Box 140, Station N
Montreal 18, Quebec

Dear Bob.

I am enclosing a copy of the application form that we are sending to enquiries regarding the Cuban Tour. This is to let you know what the background is to date.

You will notice that we have promised to try and obtain some form of assistance for the tour members during the time they may have to spend in Montreal. I imagine that most members will arrive a few days early in Montreal and also it is possible that we may never get firm sailing dates for the ship or ships involved and therefore we must assume that most tour members will require one or two days accommodation in Montreal.

To assist them we would like to establish a 'Report Centre' with a twofold purpose: first - to assist tour members to find accommodation ( either free or at modest cost ) and second - to assist tour members in finding and getting to the ship on time. We will advise the tour members to contact the report centre upon their arrival in Montreal.

The report centre could simply be someone's home or office but it would have to have a phone and someone would have to man the phone during certain hours each day once the tour members start to arrive in Montreal. The first ship is tentatively scheduled to arrive in Montreal early in June and the second ship sometime later the same month or early in July. Therefore it appears that the report centre must be prepared to function starting the first week of June and possibly remain in operation until early July.

I would appreciate it if you could undertake to organize this report centre. In any case please let me know one way or the other as soon as possible so that I can make alternative plans if necessary.

Yours truly,

( David Middleton )

R. Horn
Montreal

May 21, 1964

Greetings Verne,

Chartrand spoke at the FLAP meeting last night and said that he had not heard from the group in Brazil that was supposed to be organizing the Continental Congress. FLAP tried to sink the idea of the Congress but we called for the formation of a united front to plan the Congress anyway. We represented ourselves as supporters of the F.P.C.C. ( Five of us there ) who suggested that the Congress try to get representation from North American groups at least and try to get what we can from Latin America. Perhaps some of our friends in the U.S. would be interested in starting to plan now. Chartrand supports our idea.

Mergler spoke up at the meeting for more militant activity protesting the raids against Cuba. We backed him up so quickly and effectively that a vocal and sizable group in the audience began to support us, voicing their resistance to Pare's obvious conservatism. In effect we 'took the meeting away from him.' The FLAP executive agreed to meet with us to plan further joint action, pressured by the feeling at the meeting.

Julia said that you had mentioned enclosing a copy of a letter you had sent to Chartrand in your last letter to her, but the copy was not with the letter you sent to her.

Chartrand intends to publish a book on Latin America, this July, with contributions by French Canadians who have some experience and knowledge of various aspects of the subject.

Greetings to all

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## Castro Regime Pays

# 45 Canadian Students Planning Cuban Tour

A group of 45 students from 15 Canadian universities will spend two months in Cuba this Summer, at the expense of the Cuban Government.

The trip is sponsored by the Canadian Fair Play for Cuba Committee.

Verne Olson, national chairman of the committee, said total cost to the students would be $40 each plus about $80 spending money.

The students, 29 men and 16 women from all provinces except Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland, will tour Cuban universities through the co-operation of the Cuban Federation of University Students and will spend some time working on a Cuban school construction project, Mr. Olson said.

**He said the** group was selected from about 60 applications received in reply to advertisements placed in university papers and posted on bulletin boards. In addition, he said, the committee received about 125 letters of inquiry.

Mr. Olson said only 6 of the 45 students are members of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee.

Sixteen of the group, from the Toronto area, met Saturday at the home of Mrs. R. G. Riddell, foreign student adviser at the University of Toronto. They were addressed by Dr. Americo Cruz, Cuban ambassador to Canada.

**Dr. Cruz promised** the students they would be permitted to travel freely in Cuba, Mr. Olson said, although some military establishments might be closed to them.

At an informal seminar the students were told what to expect in Cuba by Mrs. Edith Guild, lecturer in Spanish at York University, Dr. Ulrich Leo, special lecturer in Hispanic Studies at the U of T, and Dr. Jarvis McCurdy, Professor of Philosophy at the U. of T. Mr. Olson said the three teachers volunteered to assist the students, and none are members of the committee.

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bogus U.S. traveller's chec
with the arrest of a man
woman.

Norman F. Miller, 37, of
cago, and Donna Wilson, 26,
Toronto, were apprehended
suspicious employees of two
ronto banks.

Last night, Miller was charg
with 20 counts of uttering. M
Wilson was charged with
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pear in magistrate's court
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Michel Chartrand
Parti Socialiste du
Quebec

Vernel Olson
Chairman Fair Play
for Cuba Committee

1964

John Riddell
Student, CUCND.

# THE REAL CUBA

## as three Canadians saw it

an interview with Michel Chartrand

a contribution by Vernel Olson

a contribution by John Riddell

FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE

amis du peuple cubain

Box 923, Adelaide St. P.O.,
Toronto, Ontario

21 Ellis Gdns.,
Toronto 3, Ont.,
July 16, 1964.

Mr. Chas. Biesick,
402 - 279 River Ave.,
Winnipeg 13, Man.

Dear Chas,

Thanks for your letter of May 5th last. I don't think I answered you. About this time we were deeply involved in arrangements for the student tour to Cuba. The students landed July 6th and will stay for about two months, working part of the time. We will be publishing a large pamphlet on the students' return with a press run around 10,000. This will be a very expensive project but an important one.

Our Vancouver has obtained a booth at the Pacific National Exhibition and in Toronto we are negotiating for a booth at the CNE. They are reluctant to rent us one.

Enclosed is a copy of our latest pamphlet. Could you arrange to review this for the COMMONWEALTH? This would give the pamphlet a big boost through the midwest.

Only four persons went to the 26th celebrations from Canada besides the students: two from Toronto, one from Montreal and one from Vancouver. We did not get an opportunity to send someone from Winnipeg. The next time will for the Jan. 2, 1965 celebrations. You might keep your ears open for a good candidate.

We are pleased with the job Nena and the group are doing. The circulation of literature alone is an important project. We have a summer bulletin off the press which you will receive shortly if you do not already have it. Hope you are well again.

Best wishes,

Vernel Olson,
Chairman.

R. Horn
#5
3566 Lorne Ave.
Montreal 18

V. Olson
Toronto

July 19, 1964

Greetings Verne,

It is too bad that Anne and you could not come to Montreal on the 26th. We could have had a fair sized meeting of our contacts and could have begun to lay the ground work among the English section for the organizational work this fall. We are of the opinion that someone coming from Toronto in the fall to set up the F.P. would not be that valuable since it will be basically French and the organisational problems would not be that difficult. I think that there will be little problem in activating the students since André will be at the U. of M.(he is one of the group) our 'group'). Of course there will be some advantages such as your having a better concept of the situation here as well as giving the F.P. a sense of internationalism between the French and English Canada. obtaining

We shall be holding a social on the night of the 26th at Bob's place for about 25 persons who we are trying to recruit to our revolutionary organization, so if you are able to drop in you will find it fruitful.

I am sorry about the delay with the box. We assigned Bob S. to handle this and it has taken longer than needed but it is a problem we hope to ameliorate with time and practice. He promised to have it on the 20th and willnotify you immediately. We have received no bulletins as of yet. The pamphlet was very good except for Chartrand's comment on Catholics not being allowed into PURSE, giving a mistaken impression of the situation in Cuba.

Yes, finances have been strained for a while. I do not recall the exact circumstances of the check except for having done something for André. Was the check made out by myself? If it is presented again it will go through.

Bob Horn

Fraternally Bob

Dear Vern:

Just a note to let you know what I'm doin re. Cuba. Apart from poems that is. Have 12-14 000 words of notes, of course. From these I've written a 2 000 word article for the Star. Called at MacLean's and Fulford gave me the polite brushoff, said I needed a new angle. Naturally I disagree with him, for I think any piece depends on how interesting the writer is, new angle or no angle. However, I've written to MacLean's editor in chief, Ken Lefolii, requesting a chance to do a piece.

Ray Gardiner at the Star said to go ahead on spec, which I've done, tho the piece is not finally completed. It's light, not political, or rather very small political content, humourous and descriptive. I hope, if they take this one, I may do several others, in which I can sneakily insert a biased pro-Cuban viewpoint. I suppose it comes thru in this one too, but it's not as overt as others will be if I get the chance.

The "Cuban diary" for Tamarack will come much later.

I have to thank you for invitation, which I should have done earlier. It was a wonderful experience, one which I hope to repay, as much as such things can be repaid, with words. There is no other way I can think of.

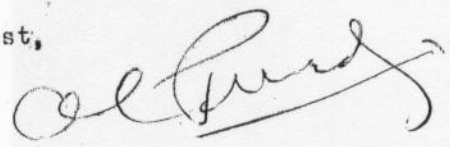
I did see one or two indications of the power struggle in the lower echelons on gov't in Cuba. Alf Dewhurst, I suppose, would be one indication as to how things are going there --his presence in Cuba I mean. Tho of course it's quite natural that any and all communists should take an interest in Cuba. I suppose also that Bob Silverman's expulsion is another indication of internal politics.

Robert Williams is, I think, a little paranoid on the subject of a future white/coloured clash for world supremacy. Sounds fantastic, I know, but he believes it, or so he assured me.

Alicia Rivas, was, of course, wonderful. I.C.A.P. in general couldn't do enough for visitors.

Well, back to writing.

Best,



A.W. Purdy, R.R.1, Ameliasburg, Ont.

FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE
Box 923, Adelaide St. P.O.
Toronto, Ont.

August 24, 1964

Dear Mr. Robinson

The Canadian Student Work Tour to Cuba arrives back in Canada the end of this month. The students will have much to say about their seven weeks in Cuba. Some of us will be able totalk to the students immediately upon their return. Many of us, and a great many Canadians with whom we have no contact however, will not have this opportunity. To assist in spreading the truth about Cuba, the committee is planning to publish a very large pamphlet written by the students. A French language as well as an English language pamphlet is planned.

This is an ambitious project and will tax the financial resources of the committee to the limit. In fact, we cannot possibly do this with the funds we have at hand. We are therefore appealing to you, members and friends of Fair Play for Cuba for funds in order to make it possible for us to put out this pamphlet.

Our estimate is that we will need a minimum of $2,000 from you, not individually, but collectively. We know that you will meet this requirement on the basis of your past responses. Would you make your cheques or money orders payable to Fair Play for Cuba Committee, at the above address. Some good friends from Saskatoon have started off the fund with a cheque for $100. How about you!

Sincerely,

V. Olson

Vernel Olson
Chairman.

$100.00 Good work
Good Luck
Bruce Robinson

Box 923 Adelaide St. Post Office,
Toronto, Ont., Aug. 25, 1964.

Bob Horn,
3566 Lorne Ave., Apt. 5,
Montreal 18, Que.

Dear Bob:

I have sent 100 copies of the new French language pamphlet to the Committee Box. Invoice is enclosed. It would seem advisable for the Committee to set up some sort of book-keeping with an account so that certain bills can be paid. Is there any Committee money available to pay the Post Office Box rent?

The students will arrive in Toronto on Saturday, morning, and we are arranging a press conference for the group. I am hoping that several of the Montreal, Ottawa and points east students will be able to stay over. I don't know when the Montreal group will arrive home, but it would seem advisable for you to arrange for a press conference there. It is likely that most of the students will be in some time Saturday.

The committee has decided to proceed with two pamphlets, one in English and one in French. These would not be identical publications. The French language pamphlet consists primarily of contributions from Montreal students. On the other hand, the English pamphlet will be primarily by English-speaking students.

I wrote to Michel some time ago, suggesting that he should publish the French language pamphlet, pointing out to him that the Committee would assume financial responsibility. We are sending out a letter to all members in contact, appealing for a few thousand dollars in funds. Already we have $200 from two contributors. I am hoping to have a chance to speak with the whole French delegation about the possibility of a committee from Montreal campus. A pamphlet would greatly assist this project. I will write you further on these matters.

Best regards,

VO/cbh
Enclos.

Chairman.

THE FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA
COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES ITS

# Annual Banquet

at

## VICTORIA AUDITORIUM

53 Queen St. E. Dinner at 6 P.M.
Sat. Oct. 31, 1964

Guest Speakers
DR. AMERICO CRUZ, Cuban Ambassador to Canada.
EDITH GUILD, Lecturer, York University.
JOE MESLIN, Prominent Trade Unionist.
Both Mrs. Guild & Mr. Meslin recently visited Cuba.

DANCING
to the JIM MITCHELL
Quartet

SPANISH & FLAMENCO
FOLK SONGS BY JOSÉ
with JOHN STEEL and
his guitar.

Adults $2.50 Students $1.50

Send cheques or money orders to
Fair Play for Cuba Committee
Box 923, Adelaide St. P.O.
Toronto.

For further information call: D. Graham RO.9-4609 or
A. Olson RO.9-5882

Nov. 30, 1964.

Sra. Julia Gonzales,
Consulate of Cuba,
Suite 2328,
1 Place Ville Marie,
Montreal 2, Que.

Dear Julia,

In the next week or two you will probably be asked to invite someone from Montreal to Cuba for the 6th Anniversity Celebrations. Here are a couple of suggestions.

In the last month I have been informed by the National President of Voice of Women of Canada that Mdme Teresa Casgrain of Montreal was interested in receiving an invitation to visit Cuba. On a previous occasion she had accepted such an invitation but was unable to go at the last moment. As you no doubt know, Mdme Casgrain is an important women from our point of view. I do not know her address but this could be obtained from here if not there.

Another important person for our purposes is Mr. Pierre Maheu, 790-B Champagneur, Montreal 8, Que. phone: 272-1365. Pierre is a very fine political. He recently spent several days in the Toronto area speaking on the situation in Que. He is editor of Parti Pris, and one of the officers of the group which publishes this magazine. He indicated to me that he would be interested in such an invitation. From our point of view he would be a first class candidate for such an invitation.

We are now settling into our new office. We have about 470 sq. ft. in two large rooms plus a small room which we use as a literature room. The office is centrally located, at the corner of Queen and Spadina. We are now preparing for the final stage of the student pamphlet. It has been a long drawn out process getting the copy in from the students.

Best regards to yourself and Jose.

Best regards,

Vernel Olson.
C

# The Annual Fair Play For Cuba

# Membership Meeting

THE PROGRAM INCLUDES:

- Election of new executive
- Report on the years activities

SPECIAL ATTRACTION -

- a report with coloured slides on the STUDENT WORK TOUR TO CUBA by David Middleton, tour leader.

## Carpenters' Hall

169 Gerrard St. E.

## Thurs. Dec. 3, 1964

AT 8 O'CLOCK, SHARP

THE FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE
Box 923 Adelaide St. P. O.
Toronto

December 28, 1964.

Norman Endicott,
232 Wychwood Ave.,
Toronto, Ont.

Dear Norm:

The Fair Play for Cuba Committee executive is making an attempt to broaden the Committee and thereby its activities. At our last membership meeting the executive was empowered to co-opt persons unto the executive.

At our last executive meeting following the general membership meeting I was instructed to write you. The Committee would be very pleased if you were agreeable to joining the Committee and to become active on our executive.

If you care to discuss this matter with me, I would be pleased to hear from you at your convenience.

Fraternally,

Vernel Olson,
Chairman.

NOW AVAILABLE!

"CHE" GUEVARA ADDRESSES THE UNITED NATIONS: Dec. 11, 1964 speech by Minister of Industries Guevara is a clear statement of Cuba's position on the question of "peaceful co-existence" and the colonial revolution.....20¢

MONTHLY REVIEW PAMPHLET

## INSIDE THE CUBAN REVOLUTION

by Adolfo Gilly

An informed analysis of the most important points of controversy in Cuba today: moral vs. material incentives to increase production, priority to industry or to agriculture in developing the Cuban economy, and centralized vs. decentralized planning. $1.00

Pictures: Housing in Revolutionary Cuba, 17 scenes 12" x 17" with comments....$1.00

"Declaration of Havana" woodcut series of 40 prints suitable for framing (18" x 13") produced by the National Council of Culture in Cuba.....$7.50

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FPCC 165 Spadina Ave. Toronto 2B, Ont.

-Trade Discounts available on Committee publications (marked FP). Special bulk orders.
PHONE ORDERS: EM4-9521 Tues. & Thurs. nights

# LITERATURE

1965

Fair Play for Cuba

COMMITTEE

# LIST:

# Speeches of Fidel Castro

The Declaration of Santiago: July 26, 1964 speech on the 11th anniversary of the Moncada Barrack attack. Castro answers OAS charges and challenges the US gov't to re-establish normal trade and diplomatic relations. (FP).....25¢

The Second Declaration of Havana: delivered by Castro on Feb. 4, 1962 at a mass rally. The appeal of solidarity to the struggling peoples of Latin and South America.....25¢

Cuba Confronts the Future: Five years of the Revolution -- speech given January 2, 1964 (FP).....35¢

Fidel Castro Warns: "We want an honourable peace, not a degrading peace". Speech given on April 19, 1964. (Order No. PD-8).....25¢

Three Speeches: 1) speech by Castro on Sept. 28, 1963 on the occasion of the third anniversary of the formation of the Committees for the Defence of the Cuban Revolution; 2)an Oct. 8, 1963 address by Carlos Lechuga, Cuba's permanent representative at the UN, to the 18th Session of the General Assembly; 3) a speech delivered by Castro on Jan. 2, 1964, the 5th anniversary of the Cuban Revolution. (Order No. PD-7).....50¢

Fidel Castro Calls For Unity: 1) Speech of Jan. 2,1963, the 4th anniversary of the Cuban Revolution; 2) a speech delivered to the Congress of Women, Jan. 15, 1963 (Order No. PD-5).....25¢

Our Line is the Line of Consistent Anti-Imperialism: Sept. 28, 1963 speech to the C.D.R.'s (FP).....15¢

Fidel Castro Speaks to the Youth (Order by No. PD-1).....15¢

Fidel Castro Denounces Sectarianism (Order by No. PD-2).....25¢

Ninth Anniversary of the 26th of July (Order by No. PD-3).....25¢

Fidel Castro Speaks on Unemployment: Feb. 11, 1961.....25¢

The Road to Revolution In Latin America: On 10th anniversary of Moncada.....50¢

Cuba's Agrarian Reform: Aug.18,1962(FP)..25¢

To the General Assembly of the United Nations September, 1960 50¢

## IN FRENCH

Vive Cuba: Impressions de Cuba, Ernest Mandel, le redacteur en chef de"La Gauche", Belgique.....15¢

2e Declaration de la Havane.....10¢

46 Heures de Sauvetage:le cyclone Flora..15¢

Sante Publique en chiffres.....10¢

Nouvelles de Cuba.....5¢

IN PORTUGUESE:

2do Declaracao de Havana.....10¢

# >>PAMPHLETS

The Real Cuba - As 3 Canadians Saw It: (FP) Reports by Parti Socialiste du Quebec leader Michel Chartrand, committee chairman Vernel Olson and John Riddell, political science student at U. of T. .....35¢

In Defence of the Cuban Revolution: by Joseph Hansen, American socialist who takes up the question of "free elections" in Cuba.....25¢

The Theory of the Cuban Revolution: by Joseph Hansen.....25¢

How Cuba Uprooted Race Discrimination: by Harry Ring.....15¢

What is Cuba Really Like?: with many photographs, by "Liberation" editor Dave Dellinger.....50¢

Cuba: 6th Year of the Revolution: By Jerry Rubin, in the Jan. '65 issue of Minority of One. Rubin spent two months in Cuba with a group of U.S. students who were "investigated" by their State Dept on their return. He is a former reporter in Cinncinnati.....50¢

Jack Scott Takes A Second Look at Cuba: A series of articles that appeared in the Vancouver Sun from May 28 to June 7, 1963 by feature writer Jack Scott. With an introduction by N.D.P. MP Herbert Herridge(FP).....35¢

Labor in Cuba & Castro and Cuba's Communists M.R. article by Maurice Zeitlin(FP)..15¢

# ON CUBA<<

Cuba's Road to Peace: A speech before the General Assembly of the United Nations on Oct. 7, 1963 by Ambassador Carlos Lechuga, outlining Cuba's foreign policy (FP).....15¢

A Latin American Speaks to North Americans: by Carlos Fuentes, well-known Mexican novelist (FP).....15¢

Four Canadians Who Saw Cuba: Report of a summer 1962 visit by an NDP member of the B.C. Legislature, a unionist, a public school principal and a university student (FP).....35¢

## BY CUBANS:

Four Years of Agrarian Reform: by Carlos Rafael Rodriguez (Order No. PD-6)...25¢

46 Hours of Rescue: An account of the devastation of Hurricane Flora.....15¢

Cuban Protest to the United Nations: A protest against CIA pirate attacks and the waves of anti-Cuba hysteria, delivered March 4, 1963 by Dr. Raul Primelles (Order No. PD-4).....25¢

Public Health In Figures: A brochure giving statistical data on public health in Cuba for the year 1963:.....15¢

"News From Cuba": A bi-monthly factual publication from the Cuban Embassy in Ottawa.....(Postage)5¢

# Canadian students in Cuba

## Introduction

During the first week of July, 1964, forty-five Canadian students from across Canada, arrived in Cuba for a two month stay on this controversial island.

The group represented Canadian universities from Fredricton and Halifax on the east coast to Victoria and Vancouver on the west coast. The students represented fifteen campuses in eight provinces, and courses in engineering, science, accountancy, medicine, political science, philosophy, liberal arts, psychology, sociology, law, schoolteaching, library and theology.

In most cases, the students have been active on campus in organizations such as Student Christian Movement, Combined Universities for Nuclear Disarmament (CUCND), New Democratic Youth (NDY), Club, campus newspapers, etc.

Arrangements for the tour were made by the Fair Play for Cuba Committee in consultation with the appropriate Cuban authorities. The transportation costs of the tour and expenses in Cuba, except personal items, were met by the Cuban government. Arrangements for the tour were initiated by the FPCC.

Early in March, notices were placed in campus billboards and ads were placed in campus newspapers announcing the tour. Anticipating a large response from applicants a call went out to professional and administrative officers to study the applications. The selection committee consisted of Jarvis McCo... Acad... W. D. ... North ... Declaration by the stud...

University of British Columbia, ... Carleton University, Ottawa, Ont. Université de Montréal, Québec University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Man. University of Toronto, Toronto, Ont. ... University of Toronto, Toronto ... Education Center, Vancouver

CONTRIBUTORS

CHRISTOPHER FAHR...
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SONIA PUCHALSKI
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JACQUIE HE...DERSON
MICHELLE SAUNIER
LIONEL ...
RACHEL ...
LISE ROCHON
FAYE FRASER
HANS M...
PAUL COPELAND
SHARON WOOD

FROM

# air play for cuba

COMMITTEE

165 SPADINA AVE.,

TORONTO 2B, ONT.

order your copy

£75

# How You Can Help

Are you concerned with the U.S. government's continuing efforts--from total economic blockade to outright military aggression--to bring the Cuban people to their knees?

Do you want to know more about the ideas and the achievements of the Cuban people, in the first socialist revolution in this hemisphere?

Are you concerned about the Canadian government's de facto participation in the U.S. economic blockade of Cuba?

Do you want to help make the real facts about Cuba better known to your fellow Canadians?

Then why not join us in accomplishing this task? The Fair Play for Cuba Committee has worked to this purpose for seven years, thanks to the supportt of people like yourself. We have published tens of thousands of copies pamphlets, held tours, and spoken to countless meetings to make known the real facts on Cuba. We have acted to make the Canadian public aware of impending threats against Cuba, and to defend the right of the Cuban people to detirmine their own future.

- ☐ Please list me as a member of the Committee and mail all Committee publications. ( membership: adults--$3.00, family--$5.00, students--$1.50)
- ☐ Enclosed is a contribution of _____ towards thae work of the committee.
- ☐ Please notify me of Fair Play For Cuba Committee activities.

Why not pass this leaflet on to a friend?

*FPCC 165 Spadina Ave. Rm.32, Tor. 2B, Ont.*

January 5, 1965.

Dr. Americo Cruz,
330 Chapel Street,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Companero:

We received your invitation to attend the 7th anniversary celebrations in Ottawa on January 10th. We were honored but it is with regret that I must inform you that Anne and I will not be able to be with you on this important occasion. I should have written sooner but the Christmas period has disrupted the normal routine.

I should inform you that we did receive a bundle of Che Guevara speech of February 1965. You will recall that I ordered 1,000 copies of this pamphlet from Havana some time ago but we have had no word. We would appreciate receiving any number of additional copies of this pamphlet that you may have available.

We have been following reports of the Tri-Continental Conference with great interest. We were very pleased indeed with the report of the opening speech made by Dorticos. We are proud of Cuba in this regard and we are convinced that a very positive role will be plaid by revolutionary Cuba at this Conference.

Please accept our warmest revolutionary greetings on the occasion of the 7th anniversary of the Cuban Revolution.

Best regards,

Vernel Olson,
CHAIRMAN

(Found in 1965.)

# ANNOUNCING !

EAST END NEW DEMOCRATIC YOUTH

Present the first of our YOUTH FORUMS:

# WHAT IS HAPPENING IN CUBA TODAY ?

SPEAKER: Miss TONI FOSTER,
Vice-President, Ontario New Democratic Youth,
Secretary of East End, N.D.Y., who has just returned from five weeks in Cuba.

Hear her impressions of the Cuban revolution - what it has accomplished, what problems it faces, and what the future holds.

SPECIAL: Coloured slides of life in Cuba to-day.

ALSO - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

ADOPTION OF CONSTITUTION

DATE : MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12th.

PLACE: East York Collegiate Institute
(Teachers Dining Room)

TIME: 8:00 p.m. (sharp)

Refreshments will be served.

## ADVANCE NOTICE -

MONDAY, February 26th, East York Collegiate Institute, 8:00 p.m. - ANALYSIS OF THE ONTARIO BY-ELECTIONS. SPEAKER: Dick Fidler, President of the East End N.D.Y.

NB -- WE MEET EVERY SECOND MONDAY AT 8:00 P.M. at the EAST YORK COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE (Teachers Dining Room).

ceiu 343

xxxxxxxxxxx

Feb. 21, 1965.

Sra. Julia Gonzales,
Consulate of Cuba,
Royal Bank of Canada Bldg.,
Suite 2328,
1 Place Ville Varie,
Montreal 2, Que.

Dear Julia,

We are sending you today, via express, a box of material for address in Cuba. I hope you do not mind, but this is mery important. The box contains:

4 sets of The History of the Russian Revolution, in Spanish individually addressed, by Leon Trotsky.

5 records for Rob. Williams.

We would urge that you try to meet Nelson Zayas. He is a very erudite person.

We will arrange to send you via air mail, the Militant and International Socialist Review, to your home address, on a regular basis.

We would have liked very much to talk to you at some length before your return but his seems impracticable now. We both send warmest fraternal greetings to yourself and Jose and we hope to see you in Cuba in the not too distant future.

Fraternally,

Vernel Olson

FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE
amis du peuple cubain

165 SPADINA—AVE—ROOM 30 TORONTO

March 16, 1965

The Administrator,
University Bookstore

Dear Sir or Madam,

Enclosed you will find a copy of a booklet which should prove to be of special interest to campus booksellers. It is the Committee's most ambitious publishing effort, and climaxes the "work tour" of 45 Canadian university and high school students in Cuba last summer.

Eighteen of these students (two of them from Quebec, whose contributions are in French) have attempted to tell the story of their 6-week stay in Cuba. They are, as one can see, students in a wide variety of studies, from campuses right across the country. All of them are articulate, whether in praising or criticizing the new society they saw.

The Committee hopes that this booklet will meet with a big response from students, especially in view of the publicity this tour and last year's tour of American students received. Now, a second, larger work-and-study tour of 50 to 100 Canadian students is being organized for this coming summer, which should heighten interest in student opinion on Cuba.

We intend to retail this attractively laid-out booklet on campuses for only 50¢ with a 20% discount to retailers. Immediate delivery can be made on purchase or consignment orders.

We hope that you will take advantage of this offer and that we will hear from you soon.

Yours very truly,

Don Graham

Don Graham
Literature Agent,
FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE

DG/jd

FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE

amis du peuple cubain

165 SPADINA—AVE—ROOM 30 TORONTO

THIS LETTER SENT TO: (by J Darling)

1) Parti Pris, 3774 rue St.-Denis, Montreal
2) Revolution Quebecoise, 3009 Maplewood, Apt.11, Montreal
3) Bonder's Bookstore, 1246 Bernard Ave.West Montreal, Que.
4) Browser's Bookstore, 7356 Sherbrooke St.West, Montreal, Que.

March 18, 1965

Dear Sirs:

Enclosed is one dozen copies of a booklet entitled "Canadian Students In Cuba", the Committee's most ambitious publication to date, which we felt you might be interesting in seeing and placing on your shelves for sale.

This booklet contains contributions by 18 of the 45 Canadian students from campuses across the country who visited Cuba on a "work and travel" tour for six weeks last summer. (Another such tour --of 50 to 100 students-- is being organized for this summer now).

The contributions (two of which are in French) are of a good quality, in a readable format. We intend to retail this booklet for 75¢ per copy and grant a 40% discount to retailers. We would be pleased if you would display these copies on a purchase or consignment basis.

Hoping that you will take up this offer, and that we may hear from you,

Fraternally yours,

Don Graham
Literature Agent
FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE

DG/jd

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February ~~25~~ 22, 1965.

During July and August of this year, university students will again have the opportunity of participating in a six-week Work-Study Tour of Cuba. This year's tour is being jointly sponsored by the Student Committee on Cuban Affairs at the University of British Columbia, the Student Committee on Cuban Affairs at the University of Toronto, the ~~Latin~~ CENTRAL American Studies ~~Group~~ Cent at Carleton University and the Fair Play for Cuba Committee chapters across Canada. The students will be guests of the Cuban Federation of University Students. Arrangements for the tour are being made through the Cuban institute I.C.A.P.

~~A fee will be charged by the sponsoring groups to cover the cost of administering the tour, but transportation costs and expenses in Cuba will be met by the Cuban government.~~

Applications forms will be available shortly and the lucky students will be chosen by a Selection Board composed in its majority of university faculty staff.

The tour is being managed by a Directorate composed of three students from the University of Toronto and two others selected by F.P.C.C. For further details and application forms write to:

STUDENT CUBA TOUR,
165 Spadina Ave., Rm. 30,
Toronto 2B, Ontario.

~~phone: 364-9521~~ Vered Dor
~~925-8380~~ Andi Rekemeier

THE ATHENAEUM

# HELP WANTED

25 Canadian University students will have an opportunity to go to Cuba for six weeks this summer. They will form a work camp to help repair Hurricane Flora damage. They will also acquaint themselves with developments there and promote goodwill and understanding between the Canadian and Cuban peoples. All expenses paid from Montreal. Boats will leave mid-June and mid-July and return in time for next school term.

Enquire

Fair play for Cuba Committee
Box 823 Adelaide St. P.O.,
Toronto 1, Ont.

THE VARSITY MAR 26

# HELP WANTED
# IN CUBA

25 Canadian university students will have an opportunity to go to CUBA for six weeks this summer. They will form a work camp to help repair Hurricane Flora damage. They will also acquaint themselves with developments there and promote goodwill and understanding between the Canadian and Cuban peoples. All expenses paid from Montreal. Boats will leave mid-June and mid-July and return in time for next school term.

ENQUIRE

**Fair Play for Cuba Committee**
**Box 923 Adelaide St. P.O.**
**Toronto 1, Ont.**
(STUDENT TOUR)

FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE
amis du peuple cubain

165 SPADINA—AVE—ROOM 30-TORONTO

Phone: EMpire 4-9521

SPECIAL BULLETIN

March 31, 1965

INFORMATION RE: ADULT TOURS TO CUBA - SUMMER 1965

Dear Members and friends,

Arrangements have been made with the Cuban governmental agency I.C.A.P. for adult tours to Cuba this summer.

The details follow:

Each person will be responsible for his or her transportation costs to and from Havana. On arrival in Havana, those on the tour will become a guest of the Cuban Government. Hotels, meals, transportation and tours throughout the island will be provided.

Besides transportation costs, persons on the tour will need money for their stopover in Mexico City both going and returning and for spending money in Cuba.

Also required is a valid passport, a vaccination certificate and a Mexican tourist card. Two tours are planned:

For May 1st May Day Celebration: The plan is to leave Mexico City on Cubana Airlines flight Monday, April 26th or Wednesday, April 28th.

FROM TORONTO connecting Canadian Pacific Airlines flight to Mexico City leaves Tuesday April 27th, and a Mexican Airlines flight leaves Sunday, April 25th. The return Toronto to Havana flight costs $410 with a 30-day Cubana Airline excursion reduction. A 17-day combined C.P.A.-Cubana Airlines excursion rate is available at $334 return as well. Travelling by bus from Toronto to Mexico City and thence by air to Havana, return, is $246.

FROM VANCOUVER & CALGARY connecting C.P.A. flight leaves Sunday, April 25 for Mexico City. Return Vancouver-Calgary to Havana air fare is $457 with the 30-day Cubana Airline excursion discount. There is no C.P.A. excursion rate discount from Vancouver-Calgary for thru flights. Bus and air fare return is approximately $225.

For July 26th Celebration: The plan is to leave Mexico City on Cubana Airlines flight of Monday, July 12th to arrive well before July 26th to avoid the larger crowds in Cuba after that date.

FROM TORONTO, C.P.A. connecting flights leave Sunday, July 11th and Friday, July 9th. Air fares are as above.

FROM VANCOUVER & CALGARY, C.P.A. connecting flight leaves Friday, July 9th. Air fares are as above.

If you are interested in this opportunity, you should contact the committee at the above address as soon as possible. The committee should be notified of late arrangements or changes by telephone or wire. Do not hesitate to contact us for any additional information.

VO/jd-700

Yours sincerely,
VERNEL OLSON, Chairman

# La Lutte Ouvrière

organe officiel de la ligue socialiste ouvrière

Robert Horn
Montreal

V. Olson
Toronto

April 27, 1965 Quebec

Greetings Verne,

Profs. Horowitz of McGill, Adamson and Scheinberg of Sir Geo. will meet Tue. May 4th (the earliest they could make it) to interview the students. I shall ask them to forward their comments to Toronto.

Art Young of the L.S.A. would know Susan Bricker from the tour of Algeria. I hear his opinion is not very favorable regarding her ability to relate anything she has seen or experienced.

I notice that Pamela Edwards of Dorion, Que. is not on the list you sent me. She applied for the tour, will be going to university next year, and has been talking of going for some time. Of those I have met over the last period, she is the best by far. She is interested in us, very much so in China, and has been active in the Peace Movement.

Fraternally,

Bob Horn

Toronto F. P. C. C.
Vern and Anne Olson
21 Ellis Gardens
Toronto 3, Ontario

Bernie Galitz
3 Service Road
Wellesley 81, Mass.
May 1, 1965

Fraternal May Day Greetings!
$50 - for F. P. C. C. enclosed!

U. S. troops sent to the Dominican Republic to protect U. S. citizens? So says LBJ. If the names of the U. S. citizens being protected are Rockefeller, Morgan, Dupont etc., (who do not live in the Dominican Republic) then LBJ is telling the truth - the U. S. troops are being sent to the Dominican Republic to protect there U. S. citizens - to protect their "right" to dominate and exploit the Dominican patriots whom the U. S. troops are murdering.

I enclose the front page of the (Hearst) Boston Sunday Advertiser as "Exhibit A".

I RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THAT YOU FORWARD IT TO THE MOST RESPONSIBLE CUBAN AUTHORITIES WITHOUT DELAY. Let them wave it in the face of Stevenson when he says that U. S. troops are in the Dominican Republic merely to protect U. S. citizens.

Bernie Galitz

21 Ellis Gdns.,
Toronto 3, Ont.
May 7, 1965.

Ber.
MSH

Bernard Galitz,
3 Service Rd.,
Wellesley 81, Mass.

Dear Bernie,

Greetings and many thanks for the cheque for $50. A receipt will follow from the FPCC treasurer.

We are deeply immersed in Fair Play work for the past few months. The Student Tour is snowballing and the amount of work involved is almost overwhelming. We have applications for, and expect to send to Cuba this year, 125 students. These students are from colleges, from Coast to Coast. The work is very gratifying, because of the high quality of the students who have applied. We have set up selection committees in the major cities across the country to interview the students in each area. In this way every student has had a personal interview. For the most part the members of the selection committees are professors at universities.

At the moment I am working at the FPCC office an average of 35 hours a week.... this is evening work and all day Sat. and Sunday. This feverish pitch will continue until we get the students on their way. Unfortunately (as is the case in most organizations) there just aren't enough people who can devote constant time our work and so the greatest load falls on a few, especially for jobs like typing. Each Tuesday is a general work night when a work crew comes out to put pamphlets together etc. This type of work involves approximately 10 people. We also have 5-6 people who regularly put in a few hours a week typing. So you see we are making full use of the office. In fact we never could have put out the work we are doing if we did not have the office.

Anne and I participated in a demonstration in front of the U.S. Consulate last week protesting the U.S. agression in the Dominican Republic. About 200 people participated. The U.S. appears to be quite desperate. The Canadian papers have been quite critical of the U.S. policy. The Canadian reporters in the Dominican Rep..have not been at all hostile to the rebels, and there have been a number of editorials questioning the wisdom of the U.S. This is something new for Canada.

We are living in the period of the Dawning of a New Day and all our efforts must go toward assisting wherever we can the struggles of our brothers, in every oppressed country, for the right to live in dignity and peace. The U.S. capitalists are fighting a losing battle! History is against them!

Fraternal greetings,

FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE
amis du peuple cubain

165 SPADINA—AVE—ROOM 30 TORONTO

June 3, 1965

Statement on cancellation of 1965 Student Tour to Cuba

Vernel Olson, National Chairman of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee and chairman of the Directorate of the Student Tour to Cuba, announced today that the tour of 100 Canadian university students will not take place this summer. Mr. Olson made a special trip to Cuba after receiving word of the cancellation of the tour. The tour was called off by Cuban authorities without an explanation, just two weeks before the first students were to leave Canada.

The tour was launched early in March after a firm commitment from the Cuban institution I.C.A.P. (Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples) was obtained through the Cuban Ambassador to Canada, Dr. Americo Cruz. On the basis of similar commitments last year a group of 45 Canadian students visited Cuba for eight weekd during July and August 1964. The cancellation of this year's tour, while final preparations were being made, came as a complete surprise to those who have been active in the preparation of the tour. Students who were selected to go were stunned by the news and those contacted indicated deep disappointment at not having a chance to visit Cuba this summer.

At a joint meeting of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, the Student Tour to Cuba Directorate, a leading member of the Toronto Selection Committee and two representatives of the students, a full report was given by Mr. Olson and the following statement was adopted unanimously:

"The cancellation of the student tour to Cuba after three months of intensive preparation, and just as the first students were getting ready to leave Canada, constitutes a grave blow to efforts of Canadians to establish the truth about Cuba and is a blow to the revolution itself. The organizers of the tour were deeply conscious of the importance of 100 Canadian youth visiting Cuba this summer, in view of the increasing isolation of the island and its people from the North American continent. The tour was doubly significant in view of the total isolation of Cuba from the United States due to the restrictive travel ban.

"The unprecedented response to the tour by students from coast to coast was a high point in over four years of activities by the Fair Play for Cuba Committee and student campus committees. The Canadian Fair Play for Cuba Committee has been the only committee in the western capitalist world that has been able to establish real understanding of the Cuban revolution on a broad non-sectarian basis. The impressive

response to this year's tour is testimony to the respect which the Committee has earned, and is living proof of the interest in the Cuban revolution which its activities have inspired. Further evidence of this respect and interest is the fact that over thirty eminent persons from Canadian universities participated in the selection process.

"It is a serious matter that the results of over four year's work in defence of the truth of the Cuban revolution has now been jeopardized, not by the external enemies of the revolution, but by the arbitrary action of an institution of the Revolutionary Government. We believe that the best interests of the Cuban people have not been served by this action. The widening interest among Canadians in the struggles of the Cuban people for a better life will undoubtedly be greatly retarded. The increasing interest of Canadian youth in the Cuban revolution, as witnessed by the formation of five campus committees on Cuban and Latin American affairs in the past year will inevitably suffer a serious setback.

"The withdrawal of previous commitments was a blow not only to the 100 students who gave up the remuneration of summer employment in order to witness the Cuban experiment first-hand, but was also a blow to at least 100 people from all parts of Canada who gave time, energy and money to assure the success of the tour in every respect.

"After serious consideration of all available information, we can only conclude that the student tour was the victim of sectarian forces within the revolution itself which have been measurably strengthened in recent months as a result of the critical international situation. This problem is not new for the Cuban revolution. Only a few years ago Fidel Castro found it necessary to speak out against this danger when he attacked the methods of Anibal Escalante (former General Secretary of the United Party.)

"The cancellation of the tour can be a source of satisfaction only to the sworn enemies of the Cuban revolution, or to hopeless sectarians. The Fair Play for Cuba Committee has been struck a harsh blow but our confidence in the Cuban people and their cause, and the pressing need to continue our activities in defence of the revolution, is unshaken. The real friends of Cuba will not diminish their efforts to bring the truth about the Cuban revolution to the Canadian people."

Vernel Olson
Chairman, Fair Play for Cuba Committee

Andre Bekerman
Chairman,
Student Committee on Cuban Affairs,
University of Toronto

c/o Room 30, 165 Spadina Avenue
Toronto 2B, Canada

June 6, 1965.

Dr. Fidel Castro,
Prime Minister,
Havanna, Cuba,
c/o Embassy of Cuba,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Dr. Castro:

We are profoundly disturbed over the cancellation of this year's Canadian Student Tour to Cuba and the political implications which may be drawn from this cancellation. We believe that unjust vilification has been directed toward the committee serving as an agent for this tour. We defend the integrity of the committee in its selection of high-calibre students and in its non-sectarian policy. We suspect the committee and in turn the students have become the victims of pressure politicking and, if so, the exigency of this issue warrants the immediate attention of the Cuban people.

We feel that the demoralization of the students as a consequence of the cancellation will unequivocally inhibit their initiative in studying co-operatism, social democracy and socialism in Canada.

In all honesty may we point out now that last year's trip to Cuba has helped Canadians toward a further understanding of Cuba and her people. As evidence of this, five university campus organizations grew out of last year's trip and 100 university students representing most of the universities across Canada eagerly anticipated this year's tour to the point of committing themselves to the study of Spanish and socialism prior to the departure date.

Detailed preparation was needed for this trip. The committee has handled this demanding load competently and has received no remuneration but disappointment.

We the students of the Canadian tour cannot look at this matter lightly and we hope we deserve enough respect as good-will ambassadors to urge the Cuban authorities to action and effect a reversal of an unfortunate decision, if at all possible in time for the first departure date June 13. If this is impossible, and we are confident that nothing is impossible for the Cuban people since the Revolution, an honest explanation from the Cuban Government must be forthcoming. If neither of these requests are respected, the imputed success of last year's tour will probably suffer as a result of rumours and there will be none to blame but Cuba.

We regret the strong tone of this letter, but in spite of it we remain your sympathizers.

Respectfully,

(See reverse side for list of signers.)

Signers

Harry Kopyto,
2 Markdale Ave.,
Toronto 10, Ontario.

Ernst O. Gadamer,
Department of Mechanical
Engineering,
McMaster University,
Hamilton, Ontario.

Arnold Rapps,
559 Huron Street,
Toronto, Ontario.

Diane Palm,
33 Bernard Ave.,
Toronto 5, Ontario.

Donalda Taynen,
64 Madison Ave.,
Toronto 5, Ontario.

Robert J. McCarthy,
4 Devonshire Place,
Toronto 5, Ontario.

John P. Moise,
48 Comay Road,
Toronto 15, Ontario.

Andre Bekerman,
170 Major Street,
Toronto 4, Ontario.
(member of Tour Directorate)

Pam Dineen,
251 Borden Street,
Toronto 5, Ontario.

Jeffrey Levitz,
138 Avenue Road,
Apt. B,
Toronto, Ontario.

LIBERATION 5 Beekman St., N.Y. 38, NY
Room 1029 CO7-1468

Vernel Olson
Chairman, Fair Play for Cuba
Toronto
Canada

June 29th 1965

Dear Vernel,

I was very sorry to hear about the cancellation of the Canadian trip to Cuba. I think that your press release was a good one, and I hope that it has some beneficial effect. I understand that you flew to Havana either just after or just before the cancellation, and I would be grateful if you could send me some off-the-record comments what you discovered there. My first reaction of course is that this was another unfortunate action committed by a particularly narrow grouping that supports the revolution, but is too hung up in political sectarianism to live up to its best insights. Did you get the feeling that such people are gaining more influence and control, or was this either a rear-guard action or simply the provincialism of persons connected with one department, as for example the I.C.A.P.

The article in the May and June Liberation by Dave Wiek, Lou Jones and myself may interest you, and I'd like to hear your comments on them. I will be interested in any reaction you have either off - the - record or conceivably for publication.

Best regards to you and your wife,

Dave Dellinger

(Found in 1965)

Dear Friend,

The Fair Play for Cuba Commissee is five years old this winter. In Toronto, we will celebrate our fifth birthday with what we are confident will be our biggest annual banquet yet.

The high point of our increasingly successful activities was the magnificent response of university students across Canada to the planned Student Tour to Cuba for 1965. About 250 English- and French-speaking students enquired about the tour and expressed a desire to go to Cuba for the summer

The cancellation of the tour was a terrible blow to the committee in many ways. Some of the effects are hard to measure, but the financial debt incurred by the F.P.C.C., which undertook to refund all tour application fees and to meet all other expenses, can be measured. The expenses of the tour preparations were about $1,300, which includes the cost of an emergency trip to Cuba by the National Chairman to try to save the tour, and a trip to Toronto by the tour administrator, who lives in Vancouver. To meet this expense, the Committee had to use all of its liquid assets and has had to borrow money. Unless this money is replaced, our future activities will be greatly hampered.

We are launching an appeal for $1,300 to cover the cost of the student tour expenses. If we succeed in attaining this goal, we will be able to attack the necessary jobs that need to be done.

The work that the Committee is doing is as vital as ever. The need to bring the truth about the Cuban Revolution to Canadians is still great. The dangers to the Revolution are not over.

Send your contributions NOW to the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, ---- ----

Sincerely
VERNEL OLSON
National Chairman, F.P.C.C.

July 22, 1965.

Dave Dellinger,
c/o LIBERATION,
5 Beekman Street,
New York 38, N.Y.

Dear Dave,

Thanks for your letter of June 29th, which came shortly before I left with the family on vacation. I am just now getting around to answering some of my correspondence which has accumulated over the past month. I wish I could spend an evening with you on the subject of Cuba. It is difficult to put so much in writing, but I will try and relate some of my impressions.

I was in Cuba for a week after the announcement of the cancellation of the tour. I was not overly confident that we could reverse the decision but we felt that it was necessary to make the Cubans fully aware of the significance of their action and that they must be made to take full responsibility. I will try and separate certain facts from speculation based on these facts.

On March 11th Fidel spoke to Havana students and re-oriented Cubans regarding the Sino-Soviet dispute. He said that information had come to the attention of the leadership which had led to a re-evaluation of the Chinese. He spoke harshly about the "senile Mao" and attacked the Chinese Ambassador in Havana who issued a protest to the Cuban Government over Cuba's attendance at the Moscow conference at the time when other governments where sending condolences over the death of Raul Roa's father. At the same time he called for a ban on Hsinhua from the campus, on the grounds that China was attacking the Soviet Union. On the other hand he stated that Cuba could not ignore the fact that 90% of her trade was with the Soviet block countries. He said that Cuba must use its influence to help the new Soviet leadership establish its authority. On March 13th Fidel made a public speech, which, in the light of the speech two days earlier can be seen as a sharp attack on China. The 11th speech was never reported, even in Cuba. It was one of his Charlas. On march 6th we received permission to proceed with the tour. The decision was reversed after this date and is in my opinion related to the new turn in Cuban policy re the Sino-Soviet dispute.

I am convinced that the cancellation took place with the full knowledge of the top leadership who I know pushed earlier for acceptance of our proposals. This does not mean that they agreed with the decision, although they may well have considered it necessary.

From here on I am going to rely in conjecture. There is no doubt that the attack on China emboldened the Old Guard over night. Fidel could not make the move he did without leaving considerable scope for certain forces to interpret the new line in concrete ways, even if this brought considerable harm to the Revolution. There is no doubt in my mind that Moscow would have considered this move a significant and concrete token of support for its line in several respects. We know for fact that the C.P. here and the American colony in Cuba have never ceased to denigrate our efforts through an endless trail of slanders, rumors etc. They have done nothing themselves, on the other hand.

The present renewed strength of the Old Guard is, I believe, of a different character than the rise of Escalante a few years ago. Their present strength comes from the international situation. The Cuban leadership has apparently come to the conclusion, possibly under heavy pressure, that it can no longer be as independent in relation to the Soviet Union as it has been. There is another factor which has been at work for a long time. The Schools of Revolutionary Instruction have always used Soviet texts and Old Guard cadres. The long-term effect of this fact is now becoming a concrete reality. On the other hand, the Revolution is six years old and some of the fervor is wearing off. This means that the more conservative elements are coming to the fore and would find a natural ally in the forces around the Old Guard, thus giving them a certain cover, and increased strength. There would also be against our activities in FPCC but for somewhat different reasons than those of the Old Guard. Combine this with the pressing needs of the international situation and the picture becomes clearer.

There is a very interesting side to the history of the Committee, a history which I must find time to write in the near future. From its early days, during the days of Escalante in Cuba, the Committee has been constantly labelled by the C.P. here and elsewhere as "Trotskyist". This made the Cubans leary of us. After watching us operate for quite some time they came to the conclusion that they liked us and a year and a half ago, during a five week stay in Cuba, they told us that they agreed with what we were doing. They discussed openly the question of the Trotskyism charge and I dealt with the question honestly. The result was our first tour. You may not know it but this was our first success in efforts to deal with Havana. Before this they stayed at arm's length. It is not hard to believe that the top leadership has been under heavy pressure to cease their co-operation with us which makes fools of the Old Guard who have become thoroughly embarrassed as a result of their own sectarian slanders against the Committee. The cancellation must be interpreted as an important concession to the Moscow oriented forces inside Cuba and of course to these same forces outside.

As an officer of the Committee I am not in a position to write for publication on this matter. Therefore these remarks should be considered off the cuff. There is a possibility that I may be in New York the first week-end in Sept. It may be possible for us to get together then.

In the June issue of Liberation I read Lou's article on Cuba but Anne sent off the copy to Rob Williams before I could read more. This seems to happen every time. Also, the Tour, which in preparation completely absorbed me and I am only now starting to get back into circulation. Enclosed is $1 for the May and June issues of Liberation so that I can read the other articles.

I did think that Lou's contribution was somewhat mechanical regarding the question of democracy and lacked any kind of analysis which is so necessary at this stage. On the other hand, I was very impressed with by a contribution by you on the Negro struggle in one of the Left publications, (was it Studies on the Left?) This was real depth of analysis. I will comment at greater length on the Cuba articles after I have had time to study them closely.

Warmest regards,

Vernel Olson,
Chairman.

August 26, 1965.

John Darling,
62 Rue Guilbault O.,
Montreal 18, Que.

Dear John,

Thanks for sending me a copy of your letter to Pat. Any FPCC contacts we have are known to Bob and others. We have very little in Montreal.

Enclosed is a copy of a statement issued by ICAP since you left. The executive has met and agreed on a limited statement, a copy of which is enclosed. The original statement by us, ICAPs reply and our reply will appear in the bulletin.

The bulletin is coming along slowly. There is a big problem of typyists. I go to the office only two nights a week so it is not a crash program.

Indications are that the Embassy is still very friendly. Phil C visited Ottawa a couple of weeks ago and was well received. Cruz is embarrassed by the statement, especially by the "agents of imperialism" bit. He is opposed to it, but he has to circulate it just the same. When asked if he would attend our next banquet he said that depends on our reply to the ICAP statement. We have not had his, or Havana's reaction yet because it too soon. I just sent it to him Tues. ICAP and the forces behind them were for a statement which would have broken all relations and placed us definitely in the camp of the counter-revolution. The Fidelista's argued for moderation. The argument ended in a compromise, to be finally settled on the basis of our reaction to their statement. We have reason to believe that the issue will now be dropped.

Will keep you posted of new developments.

Warmest regards,

(response letter T.D. took O.)

(Found in 1965)

Cuban Institute for Friendship among the People (ICAP)

P R E S S  R E L E A S E.

The students tour organized by the "The Fair Play for Cuba" from Canada, was recently cancelled.

Vernel Olson, President of the "Fair Play for Cuba Committee" and Andre Bekerman from Toronto University have release a statement concerning this cancellation; therefore, the Cuban Institute for Friendship among the People (ICAP) Executive Board considers its duty explaining to students and to all persons interested, the reasons why this projected tour had to be postponed.

Information has been made available to ICAP, through different means, with regards to the effort made by the Committee, Canadian students and professors in preparing a trip to Cuba with a view to confirm the political, economic and social achievements of the Cuban Revolution.

Our people wish to expand its relations, show to the world what is really happening in our country and bearing this in mind, tries to brake the barrier imposed by U. S. imperialism in order to prevent workers, farmers, intelectuals and students from all over the world from visiting us.

Imperialist know that their lies about the Cuban Revolution fade away as soon as a visitor from any country obtains first hand information and confirms, on the ground, that our people is building a new society, at overflowing impulse, full of hope for their sons, when unbreakable decision of fighting till death in defending what conquering cost us so much blood.

Obviously, it is of great interest to the cuban people as well as to ICAP, to promote visits to Cuba.

In 1964, Cuba was honored by receiving a fairly large delegation of Canadian students also organized by the Fair Play Committee. In spite of their short stay in our contry, those participating in that group mingled with our people and were able to objectively evaluate the efforts made by cubans in building a new life and a new society: The results of that visit will always be happily remembered by our revolutionary people.

Regrettably, the ICAP Executive Board, in this occasion was placed in a difficult situation by not being able to favorably channel through a project that; by its nature, have had and still holds the sympathies of this institution, but had not been included in our budget.

Cuba is a country which inherited a distored economical structure caused by the sacking of foreing monopolies. At the present time, the Revolutionary Government through the people and its institutions, carries out serious efforts to bring forward the technical revolution, raise the standard of living of the people, increase schools and to create the basis of a planned development of its socialist economy.

It is easily understood that ICAP being the organization in charge of promoting the visit of representatives from all over the world confronts at any given moment the need to postpone some projects not contemplated in its yearly planning due to strictly budgetary reasons.

Contrary to what is stated in the circular letter referred to before, we wish to stress the fact that this question was not left to the last minute for consideration. From the very beginning of the ellaboration of this plan, this matter was brought to the attention of the organizers, and it was clearly pointed out to them not to encourage young young students about the trip without previously having an affirmative answer.

For this reason, when it was officially known that the tour was being arranged, the Fair Play Committee was advised that it would not be possible to carry it through.

Mr. Olson visited Havana inmediately afterwards and was personally given the necessary explanatory information, besides being aware of the difficulties we had in solving this trip and compromised to explain this, on his returned, to the young people that were interested in travelling to our country.

It is not true, therefore, that the reasons for the cancellation were not explained and, far from it, that Mr. Olson had the approval from our Embassy.

ICAP Executive Board considers that the fact of having postponed this tour to another date, when it would be conveniently feasible, should not discourage those who in one way or another sympathize and contribute to spread the achievements of the Cuban Revolution.

Thus, ICAP, on behalf of our people is gratefull to all who in this occasion made the effort to propitiate new ties of friendship among Canada and Cuba, either by participating in the selecting committees or expressing their interest in travelling to our country.

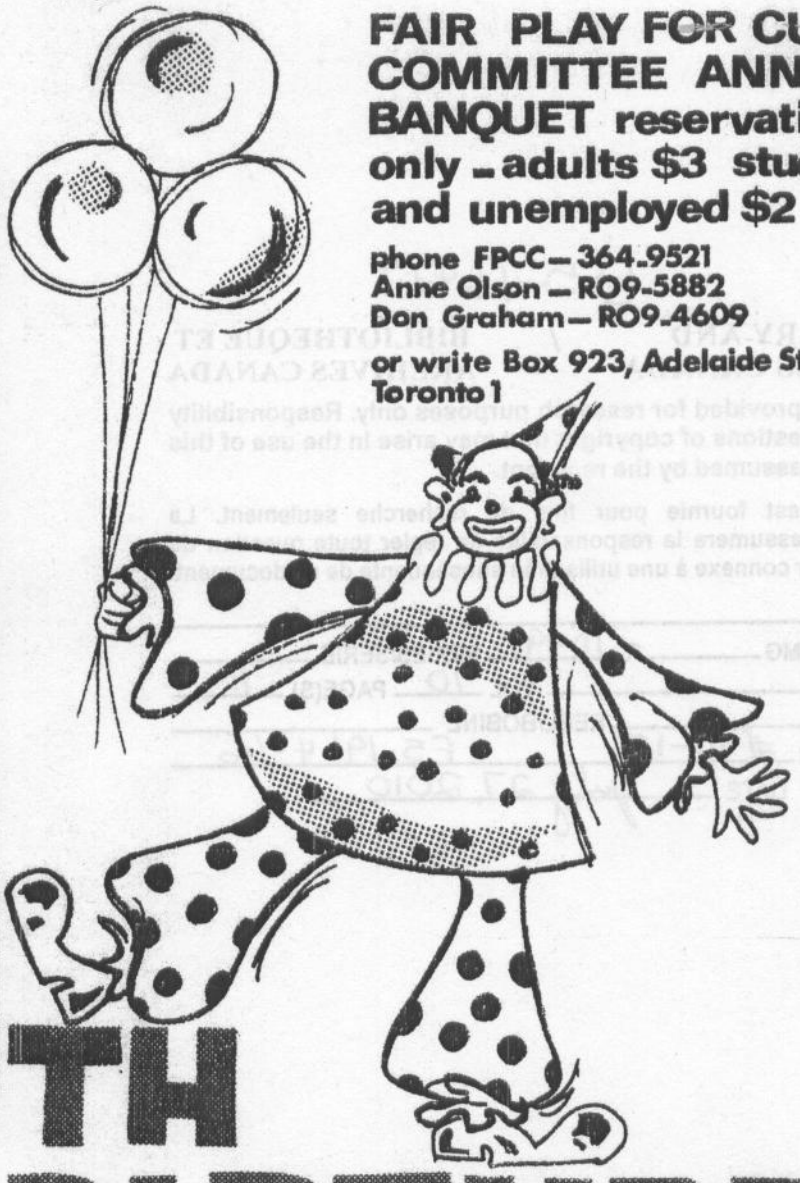
It requires a special note to clarify exerts from their statement in which they refer to certain matters which, since long ago, have been overcome by our Revolution and pretends to insinuate, - echoing in a subtle way what imperialist cry out: the existence of fractions, divisions or groups within the Revolution, yet this insinuation crashes against reality, stumble upon the Cuban revolutionaries stern unity who consciously and most decidely break through all difficulties to achieve victory. Regardless of how frequent this pretended division is printed in foreing realeases, it will not -- materialize.

We hope that those who read our letter will fully understand the reason in the attitude assumed by ICAP, and that in this manner, any misunderstanding which might have arisen by virtue of the publication of an inaccurate information of the reasons for cancelling the tour, would be cleared up.

Giraldo Mazola
Director

Found in 1965

# IT'S OUR 5TH BIRTHDAY



**FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE ANNUAL BANQUET reservations only - adults $3 students and unemployed $2**

phone FPCC – 364-9521
Anne Olson – RO9-5882
Don Graham – RO9-4609
or write Box 923, Adelaide St. P.O. Toronto 1

Lets make this banquet the biggest and best ever! It's on Saturday, November 20 at 6.30 sharp at the Lansdowne Assembly Hall, 10 Lansdowne Ave. at Queen. We'll be having guest speakers including Dr. Americo Cruz, Cuban ambassador to Canada. Dinner, dancing and, of course, refreshments.

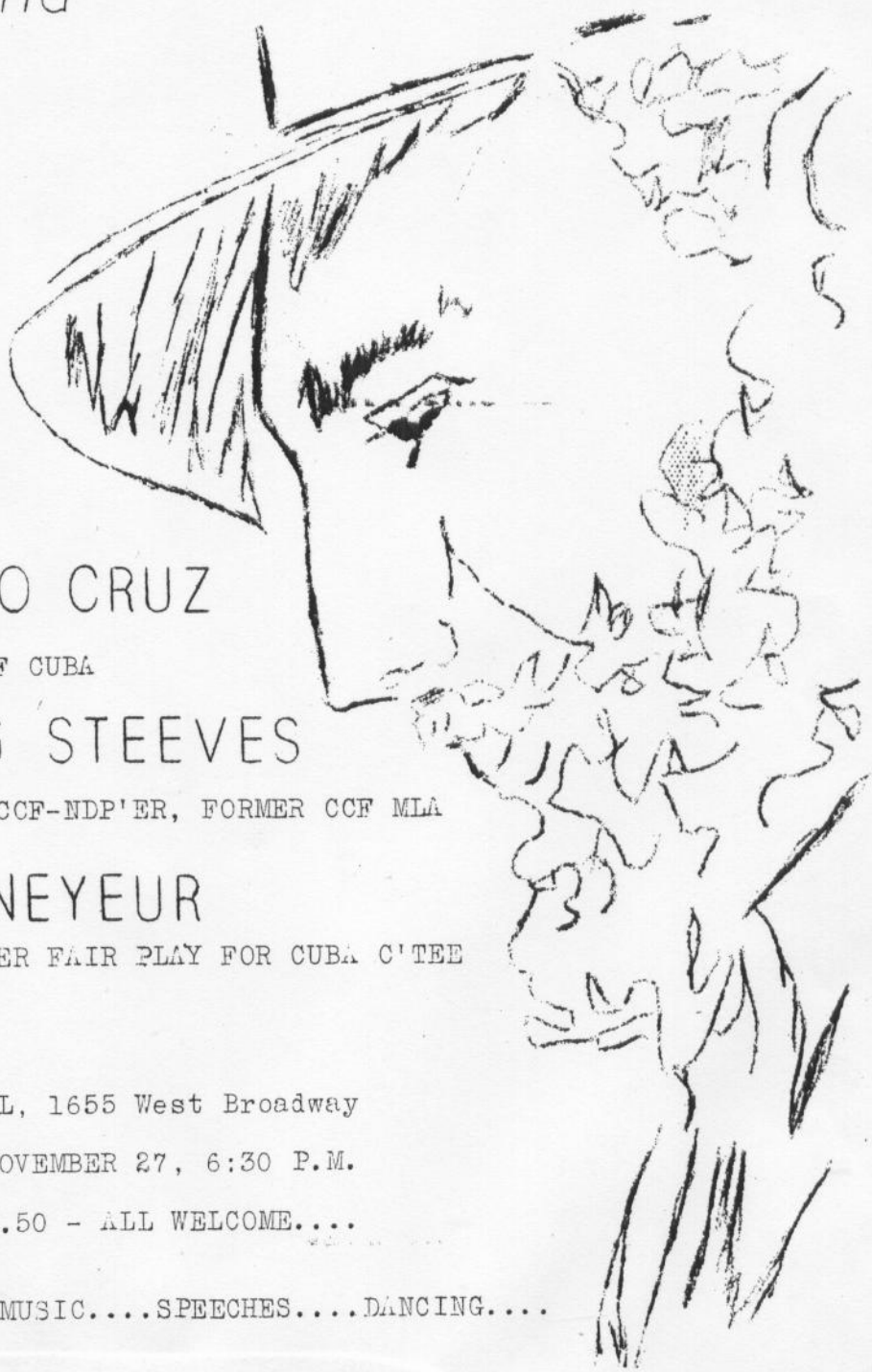
# Fair Play

BULLETIN OF THE VANCOUVER
P.O. BOX 2578, VAN. B.C. LA 2-4804

FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE
amis du peuple cubain

## RECEPTION and BANQUET

IN HONOUR OF
DR. AMERICO CRUZ
AMBASSADOR OF CUBA



## HEAR

### DR AMERICO CRUZ

AMBASSADOR OF CUBA

### DOROTHY G STEEVES

WRITER, LONG TIME CCF-NDP'ER, FORMER CCF MLA

### PHIL COURNEYEUR

SECRETARY, VANCOUVER FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA C'TEE

HARMONY HALL, 1655 West Broadway
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 6:30 P.M.
TICKETS: $1.50 - ALL WELCOME....

DELICIOUS SUPPER...MUSIC....SPEECHES....DANCING....

## What Fidel Castro Said In His Speech of Oct. 3

"SEE OVERLEAF"

U.S. PRESS SKIPPED THIS PART

# Castro's Challenge to Johnson

[The following are excerpts from the speech delivered by Fidel Castro in Havana on Oct. 3.

Castro's remarks are particularly noteworthy in that they dispell the propaganda myth that it was Cuba and not the U.S. which cut off emigration into this country in 1962.]

I feel obliged to begin with a theme not directly related to the reason for this gathering.

It stems from what we stated on Sept. 28, in regard to something that has been happening for three years, and that was used by the enemy in a treacherous way to wage a campaign against the revolution — the case of the individuals who, when the flights between Miami and Cuba were suspended, were left with one foot here and the other foot there . . .

We made a very clear and very concrete second statement in order to settle the question once and for all. And today the cables are already bringing the news of the United States Government's final answer in this respect . . .

They say in essence: "President Johnson" — this is an AP cable — "President Johnson announced today that he would obtain a diplomatic understanding with Cuba so that Cubans who wish to leave their country can seek asylum in the United States."

This statement about diplomatic understanding means an agreement on this problem through diplomatic channels.

He said: "I have requested the State Department to seek through the Swiss Embassy in Cuba, which is in charge of U.S. affairs, the agreement of the Cuban government in a request to the President of the International Red Cross Committee . . ."

And another cable, longer than the other, added that Johnson stated, "When many of the citizens of a regime voluntarily choose to abandon the land in which they were born for a home where there is hope for them, their decision reveals that the regime has failed. The future has little hope for any government when the present does not permit any hope for its people."

### Answers Charge

He stated that "the refugees would be welcomed in the thought that some day they might return to their country to find it cleansed of terror and free of fear . . ."

He also speaks of the Red Cross. Therefore, we believe it necessary to answer Mr. Johnson on these matters that have nothing to do with the question we raised, and to clear up certain pertinent details related to this affair.

In the first place the Yankee cables and many officials of that country, as well as some non-Yankee news agencies . . . apparently due to the constant repetition of this line, still echo the claim that this meant a change in policy regarding those who want to leave the country.

That is absolutely false. From the beginning of the revolution there has been only one policy in regard to this . . . From the beginning of the revolution up until the October [1962] crisis, all those who wanted to go and all those who had received permission from the United States continued leaving this country.

### Yankee Hypocrisy

And when, due to the October crisis, they stopped flights to Cuba, the revolutionary government made no change in policy, because nearly 300 persons a month continued leaving by other routes such as through Spain and Mexico . . .

What we have done is to unmask the . . . hypocrisy of Yankee imperialism, the only one responsible for having paralyzed the normal channels for leaving the country . . .

Possibly Mr. Johnson doesn't know that in the United States, when the struggle for independence from British colonialism took place, thousands and thousands of Americans left the country after independence and went to Canada. In all revolutions, whether it was the French revolution, the Russian revolution, or the Cuban revolution, this phenomenon of the privileged classes leaving or emigrating is an absolute historical fact.

Moreover, if the fact of men and women leaving the country in which they were born to go to another country is an indication of the characteristics of a social regime, the best example is the case of Puerto Rico, the island which Yankee imperialism took over and held under a regime of colonial exploitation. As a consequence of this more than one million men and women born in that country have been forced to emigrate to the United States. Mr. Johnson forgot Puerto Rico and the million Puerto Ricans living in New York under the worst conditions, in the poorest districts, doing the most humiliating work.

**Numbers Game** — Just before Fidel Castro offered to make arrangements with the U.S. to admit Cubans who wished to leave the island, U.S. sources were claiming that some 300,000 wanted to leave. When Castro announced his offer, the figure was scaled down to 100,000. The next figure we read was 50,000. Then after Johnson said he would accept the offer, the figure dropped to 15,000—20,000. (In addition, it was said there are people in prison who want to leave.)

### Red Cross Role

Of course, to bring up the matter of the Red Cross is a little trick used by Mr. Johnson to dramatize the affair. Really, who ever heard of needing the Red Cross to grant a visa or to authorize some planes to land in Miami. Is there any need for the Red Cross? What does the Red Cross have to do with it? This has nothing to do with an earthquake, or a catastrophe, or a war. It's only a simple formality for authorizing the landing of planes and the arrival of ships in the U.S.

There's no need for the Red Cross for that.

At any rate, the Red Cross could do a much better job in South Vietnam, where Yankee soldiers are murdering thousands, murdering and torturing thousands of citizens. Or in North Vietnam, where the criminal Yankee bombs are dropped indiscriminately, over cities, villages, schools, or hospitals.

The Red Cross could do something in the Dominican Republic, where the invading soldiers perpetrate all kinds of brutalities against the people and where they have seized schools.

### Challenges U.S.

It could intervene in the U.S. to prevent that massacre of Negro citizens, as happened in Los Angeles, California, recently. But in this matter, Mr. Johnson, the presence of the Red Cross is not required. It is enough for us to discuss it with the representatives of the Swiss Embassy, who are also the representatives of U.S. interests in Cuba . . .

And now, to speak very seriously on the subject of freedom, I'd like to know if Mr. Johnson could answer a couple of questions.

I ask whether the U.S. is capable of allowing Cubans to visit their relatives in Cuba and return to the United States. I ask whether the United States will permit Cubans who don't wish to live in the U.S. to visit their relatives there and afterwards return to Cuba; and finally, I ask whether the United States is willing to allow U.S. citizens to visit Cuba.

To that same government that speaks of how badly a nation must be going when citizens of that country leave, we could say in reply: a country must be worse off when in spite of being a nation that boasts of being free . . . it is afraid to permit its citizens to visit this country.

We challenge them to permit the representatives of the Negro or civil rights organizations in the United States, to visit Cuba so that they can see how, with the disappearance of the exploitation of man by man, racial discrimination has disappeared in our country once and for all.

TAKEN FROM THE MILITANT AN AMERICAN SOCIALIST WEEKLY

# go to CUBA for the 7th anniversary of the revolution

The Cuban Tourist Bureau, in cooperation with Cubana Airlines is offering a 17 day tour to Cuba during the Christmas period 1965. The price of $428.49 covers return fare-Toronto--Mexico--Cuba--Toronto; food and accomodation in Cuba and the transportation in the planned tour in Cuba. (It does not cover over-night stay in Mexico City.)

Travel Plans are as follows:

Leave Toronto December 26, '65 Aeronaves Flight 441, 6:20 PM

Overnight in Mexico City
Leave Mexico City December 27, Cubana Flight 465, 1:00 PM

Return Trip

Leave Havana January 12 Cuban Flight 464, 8:15 AM
Leave Mexico City, Canadian Pacific Airlines Flight 582, 11:55 PM

For further information please contact: CUBANA AIRLINES
P.O. Box 185, Montreal International Airport, Dorval, Quebec

courtesy of Fair Play for Cuba Committee Toronto

(found in 1965) (edited by R. Dawson)

ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF "WHERE IS CHE GUEVARA?" by Vernel Olson.

For the past eight months, the public opinion moulders in North America have been speculating on the No. 1 question of broad public interest in Cuba. "Where is Che Guevara?" Until October 3, 1965, friend and foe alike were asking themselves the same question. Embodied in the question, "Where is Che", was the equally important question, "What is the political significance of Guevara's disappearance from public life?"

I was in Havana the last week of May, 1965 and the rumors there were many and enlightening. The speculations in Cuba about Che were more interesting and revealing than the rumors in the daily press here because they focussed on the attitudes of Cubans toward the man and what he symbolized.

Here are some of the rumors and speculations I heard at the time. "Che has been disgraced by Fidel because of his speeches in Africa in February 1965." "Che has been publicly reprimanded for what he said in Africa, in order to placate Moscow, but he is not really in disgrace; he will be back". In the same vein, "Che is being disciplined 'for the record', but he is actually playing an assigned role."

Note that certain rumors suggest differences between Che and

Fidel while others suggest that the Cuban leadership was united, with certain persons playing assigned roles. Other rumors ~~were~~ prevalent in more sophesticated circles are also of interest: here are a couple of the many I heard. "While Che was in Africa, Fidel went into his (Che's) office and found Trotskyist publications on his book shelves. Fidel was very angry with Che and was reprimanding him." And along the same line, "While Che was in Africa, the G-2 went into his office and found much Trotskyist literature. This was reported to Fidel who was very angry...."

~~One important theme underlies~~ What Underlies all these speculations: ~~this~~ is that in the minds of most Cubans Che Guevara is associated with the most revolutionary, the most uncompromising, the most internationalist outlook of all the Cuban revolutionaries. Since the early days of the victory of the Revolution two basic concept have been contending for the allegiance of the Cuban leadership and people. One is an equalitarian, or egalitarian tendency; the other is a tendency ~~towards stabilization of~~ seeking to freeze the revolutionary process which would lead to routinism and new forms of privilege ~~leading to new forms of privilege~~. In many instances this

struggle has assumed the form of open public debate.

One such public debate has been the question of production incentives. Guevara has been a strong proponent of moral incentives, rather than material incentives. His writings and speeches are permiated with this philosophy. He has publicly identified with the idea ~~been for~~ the maintenance of a high level of revolutionary is the best way to solve the problem of incentives fervor in Cuba ~~and for a perspective of an early extension~~ This is in harmony with the whole policy of the leadership which of the revolution to the ~~rest of the colonial and neo colonial~~ Latin American revolution ~~world~~. links the future

Those who know revolutionary Cuba will appreciate the profoundly revolutionary spirit which prevails amongst the Cuban masses as well as all layers of the leadership. The most enthusiastic response of the Cuban people has always been reserved for the most revolutionary direction given by the leadership. The equalitarian spirit of the Revolution is very deep rooted, and it is with this spirit that Guevara is most completely identified. Several months after the long official silence, Fidel mentioned Che's name at a meeting of university students and the students cheered long and hard. Fidel said that he was pleased that the students felt this

way about Che, who, he said, was a true revolutionary. This was the first indication by Castro that Guevara was not in disgrace, and the Cubans were elated.

The stature of Che Guevara in Cuba was well known to the enemies of the revolution; hence the widespread speculation in the U. S. press about the significance of his disappearance from public life. The favorite guess was that the Cuban leadership had knuckled under to pressure from Moscow; a logical consequence they argued, of Cuba's increasing economic ties with the Soviet Union. They interpreted ~~It was also believed that~~ the speech given by Che to the Second Afro-Asian Economic Conference, held in Algeria from the 22nd to the 27th of February, 1965, as being critical of the Soviet Union and its trade policies.

The "Cuban experts" of the press in North America were convinced that either a schism had developed in the Cuban leadership with Che on one side and Fidel on the other, or that pressure from an outraged Moscow had forced the Cuban leadership to retreat from the position taken by Che in Algeria. Since Guevara had made the speech, the argument went he was the logical offering if Moscow was to be placated.

Subsequent events have shown how little the pundits know about Cuba. Many questions obviously remain unanswered but it is interesting to note that the Cubans have now published the speech given by Che at the Afro-Asian Conference last February. This is a clear indication that Guevara was, in fact, speaking for the Cuban leadership at the time and the leadership feels no embarrassment even at this date. On the contrary, they have elected to make their views known.

What then did Guevara say in Algeria last winter, in a speech which was the basis of so much speculation. Obviously, our normal sources of information are entirely misleading, so it is necessary to quote Guevara directly and at length.

> ".....The struggle against imperialism for liberation from colonial and neo-colonial bonds, carried out by political arms, firearms, or a combination of both, is not disconnected from the struggle against backwardness and poverty; both are steps on the same road leading toward the creation of a new society, rich and just at the same time.....
>
> "There are no boundaries in this struggle to the death. We cannot remain indifferent to what happens anywhere in the world, for a victory of any country over imperialism is a victory for us, and likewise, a defeat of any nation is a defeat for all.

The practicing of proletarian internationalism is not only a duty of the peoples struggling for a better future, but it is, besides, an unavoidable necessity.....

"Each time a country is freed, we say, it is a defeat for the world imperialist system, but we must agree that the removal does not happen by the mere fact of proclaiming independence or by obtaining an armed victory in a revolution. Freedom takes place when the imperialist economic domination ceases to be practised on a people.....

"A conclusion must be reached from all this: the development of countreis now starting on the road to liberation should be paid for by the socialist countries. We state it this way without any intention of blackmail or dramatics whatsoever, nor are we looking for an easy way to get closer to the Afro-Asiatic peoples, but as a profound conviction. Socialism cannot exist without a change in conscience leading to a new fraternal attitude toward humanity, both for the individual in the society building socialism or when it has been built, and world-wide in relation to all peoples suffering imperialist oppression.

"We believe the responsibility of aiding dependent countries should be approached with such a spirit and there should not be any more talk about developing trade for mutual benefit based on prices rigged against underdeveloped countries by the law of values and international relations of unequal exchange brought about by that law of values.

"How can one call 'mutually beneficial' the selling at world market prices raw materials costing limitless

sweat and suffering to the under-developed countries and buying machinery produced in large automatic factories of the present age?

"If we establish that type of relations between the two groups of nations, we must agree that the socialist countries are, in a way, accomplices of imperialist exploitation.....The socialist countries have the moral duty of liquidating their tacit complicity with the exploiter countries of the West.....

".....The soviet Union and Cuba have signed agreements advantageous for us, by means of which, we will sell five million tons of sugar at fixed prices above those of the so-called free world sugar market. The People's Republic of China also pays those prices. This is only the groundwork, the real task consists in establishing prices permitting development..... Foreign trade should not determine policy but, on the contrary, it should be subordinated to a fraternal policy towards the peoples..... "

Guevara then discusses the need of large capital investments in the underdeveloped countries, investments which "weigh directly on the state budget and are only recovered by the use of the products in the elaboration process up to the very end of manufacturing. We propose that some thought be given to the possibility of making this type of investments in underdeveloped countries". This way, he says:

"An immense underlying force in our continents, miserably exploited, but never aided in their development, could be put into motion and to begin a new stage of authentic international division of work, based not on the history of what has been done up to now, but based on the future history of what can be done.

"The States in whose territories the new investments are to be made will have all the inherent rights of sovereign property over them, without any payments or credits. The possessor will be obligated to supply determined quantities of products to the investing countries over a certain number of years and at certain prices.....

"The socialist countries should supply the aid for organizing centers for technical training.....Technicians coming to our countries must be exemplary. They are comrades who must face a strange environment, often hostile to technique, speaking a different language and with totally different customs. The technicians facing the difficult task, should be, first of all, Communists in the most profound and noble sense of the word.....

"We know it can be done because brother countries have sent us a certain number of technicians who have done more for the development of our country than ten institutes, and have contributed more to our friendship than ten ambassadors or one hundred diplomatic receptions....."

Guevara advises the peoples of Asia and Africa now struggling for their liberation to take the path of the Cuban Revolution. They will follow it sooner or later, he said, although their socialism may have some qualifying adjective. Guevara says:

"There is no other definition of socialism valid for us than the abolition of exploitation of man by man. As long as this has not been achieved we are in the

stage of building the socialist society, and if instead of this phenomenon, the task of suppression of exploitation comes to a halt, or even recedes, it is not valid even to speak of the building of socialism. We have to prepare conditions so that our brothers directly and consciously take the path of the decisive abolition of exploitation, but we cannot ask them to take that path if we ourselves are accomplices of such exploitation".

The foregoing quotes from the speech of Che Guevara confirm, I believe, the reputation which Che has earned as a devoted and uncompromising revolutionary. It would seem to have been ~~Maybe it was~~ wishfull thinking on the part of the U.S. power structure that Guevara had been demoted or even disposed of, for they are as aware ~~as anyone~~ of the true character of Guevara.

The profoundly humanistic and equalitarian character of Che is an accurate reflection of the prevailing mood among the Cuban masses, although this is not the only tendency at work in Cuba today. (~~It is, in my opinion, still the dominant~~ All indications are that this tendency is still the dominant one ~~tendency~~ not only among the masses but also among the leadership.. ("All indications are that this tendency is still the dominant one" -ed.)

We do not have any information on the whereabouts of Guevara, other than what was revealed by Castro on October 3, 1965, nor can we do any more than speculate ~~on the factors which led~~ about what other factors than those given by Castro might have led

to his sudden disappearance from public life. However, one thing now seems certain, Guevara was and still is a true son of the Cuban people and their Revolution. He continues to wield a great deal of influence in Cuba through the example of his selfless devotion to the cause of the Revolution. On October 3, Fidel Castro told the Cuban people that Che was needed elsewhere, and they applauded warmly. Again his selfless devotion inspires the Cuban masses.

MINUTES OF THE LAST F.P.C.C. EXECUTIVE MEETING

JANUARY 13, 1966

-Meeting called to order at 9:00p.m.

-ATTENDENCE -- 4

-Minutes of last meeting read and adopted
-Business arising out of minutes of last meeting
-discussion on the production of a pamphlet on public health
-moved and carried that we publish Che Guevara's article on "Socialism And Man" and that we begin production immediately
- it will probably be about twenty pages in length
-Milton Acorn in Vancouver has written a poem called "Where Is Che Guevara?"--moved and carried that we reprint the poem as the introduction to the pamphlet with Mr. Acorn's permission
-discussion on Joan Newbigging's talk on the role of women in Cuba and the production of a pamphlet from it--moved and carried that we produce the pamphlet so that it includes Joan's talk and the discussion that followed and further research to be done by Joan, Toni Foster and Lois Hedard
-Report on last general membership meeting
-ATTENDENCE--about 50
-business arising from last membership meeting
-Jose Santa Maria withdrew from the executive of F.P.C.C. because he no longer belongs to the Spanish Canadian Democratic Association and he accepted the nomination on that basis--he suggested that we go to S.C.D.A. to get another person
-Lev Walker after reconsidering her nomination decided to accept and was co-opted onto the executive
-Literature sales
-decision taken to push all our literature at anti-war meetings
-Cultural evening
-moved and carried that we hold our cultural evening on March 13
-small buffet meal to be served
-try for Spanish folk-singing group
-movie to be shown--"Carnival"
-Election of officers
SECRETARY--Peter Lennox
TREASURER--Don Oman
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY--Toni Foster

-Meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT WAS ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE TORONTO EXECUTIVE OF THE FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE FEBRUARY 14, 1966.

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On January 15, 1966, Fidel Castro -- in a speech closing the Tri-Continental Congress held in Havana - devoted considerable space to an attack on the basic character and motivations of an international political tendency in the labor movement. He was referring to the 4th International and those who are known as Trotskyists. Also attacked was Monthly Review and other journals.

The following are some excerpts from the speech which give an idea of its character and contents. In reference to the Guatemalan guerrilla movement led by Yon Sosa -- reported favorably by Adolfo Gilly in the May and June 1965 issues of Monthly Review -- Castro says that "... Yankee Imperialism has used one of its most subtle tactics to liquidate a revolutionary movement, that was to infiltrate agents of the 4th International that -- by ignorance, by political ignorance of the principle leader of this movement (Yon Sosa) -- they made him adopt nothing less than that thing which is discredited, that thing which is anti-historical, that which is fraudulent, which emanates from elements so provenly at the service of Yankee Imperialism as is the program of the 4th International. The Guatamalen revolutionary movement must be rescued he said, "... from the dirty hands of those mercenaries in the service of Yankee Imperialism."

We are not concerned here with a defense of the 4th International, Trotskyism or Trotskyists, real or alleged, in an academic sense. We assume they will respond as they see fit. What is of serious concern though, is the integrity of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee and persons associated with the Committee. It goes without saying that the Committee would have to take some actions if known "mercenaries" or "agents of imperialism" were active in its ranks.

FPCC has been, and is, a broad non-exclusive organization. Membership has been open to all persons, regardless of political affiliation, who have shown an interest in furthering the truth about the Cuban Revolution. Five years of experience of the Committee in Canada has shown that persons who are known adherents of, or sympathizers of the organization in Canada known as Trotskyist, have been among the most active, energetic and enthusiastic defenders of the truth about the Cuban Revolution. Furthermore, the Committee has openly circulated publications of Monthly Review on Cuba. In particular, we are of the opinion that the article by Adolfo Gilly, "INSIDE THE CUBAN REVOLUTION", which was published by Monthly Review, is a serious and worthwhile contribution to the literature on the Cuban Revolution. We have a high regard for the integrity of the editors of Monthly Review, and its editorial board. We have no evidence to sustain or justify the allegations of Prime Minister Castro regarding Trotskyists, Adolfo Gilly or Monthly Review.

The Committee has worked consistently for a unity of the broadest forces possible in defense of the truth of the Cuban Revolution. This task has been aided by the very nature of the Revolution. The example set by Cuba has been an inspiration to important sections of the North American people, and particularly to its youth and oppressed minorities. The integrity of its leadership as well as its courage, vision and dynamism has been a constant source of pride and encouragement to the politically awakening youth of this continent.

These charges by the most respected leader of the Revolution - charges which are not confirmed in any respect by our experience, but on the contrary are unacceptable to any serious political tendency on the North American continent - will make this task unnecessarily difficult and will impede its further development.

We call upon Prime Minister Castro to re-assess, and we are hopeful that he will repudiate his charges against proven defenders of the Cuban Revolution. We would urge Fidel Castro to re-affirm the previously stated principle that "the Revolution must be a school of unfettered thought."

Fair Play

BULLETIN OF THE VANCOUVER FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE

P.O. BOX 2578, VAN. B.C. LA 2-4804

amis du peuple cubain

7187 - 10th Avenue
Burnaby 3, B.C.

(personal)

May 6, 1966.

Dear Verne:-

We finally held our general membership meeting and election of officers last night. There were 16 people present out of a current membership of about 40 people. It was a beautiful evening, but I think we must take this as a good sign of an actual disinterest even on the part of people who are members or supporters.

The main item on the agenda was of course, Cedric's report and his position that we should disband the Committee. He defered his report to new business and in the ensuing discussion nothing really new was added.

To finalize the discussion, Hugh Clifford moved a motion: "that we recommend to the National Office of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee that the committee discontinue its operations under the name "Fair Play for Cuba Committee". The vote was 4 in favor (Hugh Clifford, Madelaine Gratton, Stan Brooks - an independent - and John Macey, Cedric not voting) and 11 against.

We then held executive elections: We moved to have a five man executive with the executive choosing from itself its officers. Cedric would not stand for a position. Neither would John Macey. The new executive is as follows: Bob Bastein, Joyce Meissenheimer, Bill Johnson (UBC student), Larry Nozaki, and myself. We have not formally decided, but it is a forgone conclusion that I remain the secretary and Bob Bastien will be Chairman.

The day of the meeting we received the enclosed brochure from the newly formed "Self Determination Committee for the Peoples of Latin America". As you will note, Cedric has gone over to this creature of the PWM; he did not even tell me before hand, so it came as news (not a surprise, but news) to us at the meeting.

Our impression is that this new Committee will have very little viability, but that it will be around for awhile, ready to cash in on anything that happens. We can go around it and even join it; its stated aims do not conflict with those of Fair Play, but it is worth noting that their leaflets do not once mention the relevance of the Cuban Revolution to the Latin American struggle. This is even worse that the Canada-Cuba types who at least acknowedged the import of the Cuban transformation to Latin America when they put on their new Canada-Latin America face.

over.1

I think the insert in the Vanguard was excellent, but a little late for us here. One of the problems with Fair Play out here is that we are always behind the Centre in drawing appropriate lessons and conclusions to the attention of our members, when the crises hits the Committee here, because we have had to await the reaction from the National Office. We have lost some ground because of this. But now that the necessary split has come with the centrists, we can now go to the supporters with a unified executive and with a leadership that at least understands what has happened.

I think I should point out that the discussion and debate over continuing the Committee was very frrnedly and amicable. At the close of the meeting Cedric gave a sort of thankyou speech for what he called "ggod years" of his life, he praised the Committee as having done the best job, condemned the Cubans a little for their decision, and actually said that if "Cuba is attacked, we can count on him for support". He raally acknowledged that if this happens, it will be us who willdo the djob.

Well Vern, I am aware that you have evolved a differenc apraisal of the Cuban predicament than the USFI and the majority of the Canadian comrades; I am certainly interested in ~~talking and~~ discussing this question with you when I get to Toronto. We have held numerous discussions here and out of it all we seem to be in basic agreement with the majority position, in spite of our initial reactions.

Other incidentals from the meeting: we have some 312.00 in the treasury, which means we will have good financial flexibility when it comes to moving out on future projects. We are awaiting anxiously Che Guevara's Socialism and Man.

My greetings to Anne and Carson. See you in a few weeks.

Yours in Fair Play for Cuba

Phil

Phil S. Courneyeur.

c.c. file:

~~Encl. 1~~

P.S. an official letter enclosed for office use. I got carried away with that personally oreinted paragraph, so I make this a personal note between the two of us.

Phil

File Clippings

165 Spadina Ave.,R.30
Toronto 2b.

June 15, 66

Editor ,
Toronto Daily Star,
80 King St. W,
Toronto

Dear Editor:

No doubt I am expressing the pleasure of many of your readers at Jack Scott's refreshingly objective report on Cuba. I was surprised however at the rather oversimplified view that Mr. Scott seemed to hold of Cuba's militant stance in foreign affairs.

Rather than being "music to the ears of the Soviet leaders, Cuba's sustained combativeness" and their call to turn Vietnam "into a cemetary for US planes" is a direct challenge to the Kremlin's peaceful co-existers.

For instance , at the recent Tri-continental Congress in Havanna, it was the European delegates who had to scrap their soft-spoken tones in the face of a much tougher stand carried by none other than Fidel Castro. In fact, Armando Hart's speech to the 23rd Soviet party congress, from which Jack Scott Qquotes , was met by the assemblage of bureaucrats by a cool and hushed silence. Hart , according to the April 1st issue of Izvestia, insisted that Moscow take the "necessary risk" and "create a military force capable of stopping US aggression in Vietnam".* A Belgian pro'-Moscow correspondent goes on to report of the same gathering, that the name of General Degaulle was applauded on two occasions.

One might think, that the Russian Communists would much sooner have a tête à tête with Charles rather than putting a check to Johnson's escalating war in Vietnam.

In short, the Cuban's stern reminder, far from indicating subservience to Moscow shows unequivocally the considerable influence and independence which Cuba's revolutionary position enjoys. Havana, not Moscow ,Cairo or Peking has become the capital of a new and more determined revolutionary line for the underdeveloped world.

Sincerely yours ,

Hans G. Modlich,
Chairman, Fair Play for Cuba Committee.

*ADD XXX So great was the bewilderment, that "only after Brezhnev himself had given the signal several times" was there an even half -hearted applause.

AR LONDON E.C.4.

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TORONTO STAR LTD

THE TIMES BUILDING, PRINTING HOUSE SQUARE
LONDON, E.C.4.

TORONTO DAILY STAR
STAR WEEKLY AND CANADIAN WEEKLY
TORONTO STAR SYNDICATE

July 4, 1966

Dear Mr. Modlich:

Many thanks for your kind letter. I am glad that you approved of my series on Cuba.

As far as a pamphlet is concerned you certainly would have my permission. However it will be necessary for you to have the approval of Mr. Ralph Allen, managing editor of The Toronto Daily Star. I am not sure of the Star's policy on such matters.

If it works out I'd appreciate you sending me a copy.

Sincerely,

Jack Scott

Jack Scott

Fair Play for Cuba Committee
165 Spadina Ave., Room 30
Toronto 2B, Ontario
July 27, 1966

Jack Scott,
Toronto Star Limited,
The Times Building,
Printing House Square,
London, E.C.4, England

Dear Mr. Scott,

Well, I just had a short chat on the phone with Ralph Allen, as you suggested in your letter. I'm afraid I wasn't able to persuade him to release any of your articles for reproduction by a "Partisan group" such as ourselves. Mr. Allen seemed rather adament on this point. So it would seem to me that this unfortunately puts theproject on ice. Still, I keep thinking of the great merit of this effort, and hope that perhaps some one else will pick it up. We would of course be glad to give a y help.

By the way, I ran into some articles on Cuba and particularly Armando Hart's speech to the 23rd Congress of the CPSU which I thought you may have been unaware of, and would be interested in. It takes so long to sift out reliable information on the third world -- no to mention Vietnam.

Henri Laurent, correspondent for the Pro-Moscow Belgian "le Drapeau Rouge" wrote some interesting remarks about how coolly Hart's speech was received by the congress. Says Laurent, "His speech was received rather coldly by the audience, to such a degree that it was necessary...for Brezhnev himself to give the signal several times for applause." Hart's tone, it seems was too militant, too demanding on particularly on the question of Vietnam.

Marcel Niedergang after visiting Havana in the spring wrote a really fine article in Le Monde on Cuba's present stand vis a vis Moscow and Peking. I managed to get hold of it in a very handy labor press service called World Outlook and I've written them to send you a copy of this issue in question (Vol. 4. No. 18)Niedergang sheds some light on the whereabouts of Guevara, and analyses the developments which led to the break with China. He thinks too, that Mao himself did a great deal as early as 1964 to slam the door shut. Niedergang calls Castro's positions "Guevarist in his (own) way" and points out how judging from the recent Tricontinental congress "it would be hazardous to affirm that Fidel Castro is seeking to slow down the 'revolutionary elan in Latin America' by advancing the argument that he agreed to 'co-ordinating' and 'organizing' things on a continental scale in agreement with the pro-Soviet communist parties."

There is also a very stirring article in the current ATLAS magazine on the revolutionary priesthood of Northern Brazil, which refers to the Communist Party as not being revolutionary, but rather wishing to make alliances with the bourgeoisie.

Castro's July 26 speech is strongly directed against the "pseudo-revolutionaries" "theoreticians, who lack faith in revolutionand conviction angd go around speechifying and electioneering." (And he was not referring to Frei)

The impression I have is that the Cubans have continued to expound their own and not the Kremlin's views on the revolution in Latin America. I have enclosed a duplicate of the letter on this subject which I wrote to the Star at the conclusion of your articles.

Fraternally,

Hans G. Modlich

165 Spadina Ave.,
Room 30,
Toronto 2B, Ont.

Sept. 12, 1966.

M. J.M. Plante,
308 Gamache Ave.,
Sept-Iles, Que.

Dear M. Plante:

We are sorry to inform you that we are no longer organizing trips to Cuba, but wish to refer you to the Cuban Embassy, 112 Sherwood Drive, Ottawa 3, Ontario.

We would suggest that you contact the Embassy soon so that they may be able to consider your participation in a visit to Cuba for the January First Anniversary celebrations, should they be organizing such a visit for Canadians this year.

Meanwhile, perhaps you might be interested in some of our publications on Cuba. We enclose a list of currently available publications.

Sincerely,

Hans G. Modlich,
for the Committee.

165 SPADINA AVE.,
ROOM 30,
TORONTO 2B, ONT.
EM 4-9521

February 27, 1967,
Ano de Vietnam Heroico.

Dear Friend or Member;

We are pleased to be able to send you this complementary copy of Granma through the co-operation of the Institud Cubano de Amistad con los Pueblos (ICAP). The issue, as you can see, is devoted to Prime Minister Fidel Castro's 8th Anniversary Address, a most inspiring speech and one which in our opinion embodies the spirit and dynamism of the Cuban Revolution.

Please write us if you would like to obtain Granma on a regular basis. The paper can clearly play an important role in making Canadians more conscious of the real facts of the Cuban Revolution.

Following its annual meeting at the end of January, the Committee launched a country-wide drive for memberships and financial support. We will shortly be mailing you a special appeal asking your assistance in our many projects in this, the Year of Heroic Vietnam. We are currently preparing the Winter 67 Bulletin, containing excerpts of speeches by Cuban leaders on such issues as Vietnam.

Fraternally,

Hans G. Modlich

Hans G. Modlich,
Chairman.

(Found in FPCC file - 1967)

Translation of an enclosure with the letter from the Quebec Federation of Labour and the petition.

COMMITTEE FOR SOLIDARITY WITH THE VICTIMS
OF REPRESSION IN PERU

---

In Peru, as in most South American countries, dominated by the big landowners, misery, unemployment and injustice for the landless peasant reigns.

Peasants die of hunger while vast areas often lie fallow. Of course there is a lot of talk about agrarian reform; but nothing at all is done because the landowners have the ear of the army and with complete impunity exercise a feudal power over their estates. The most justifiable demands of the peasant are brutally denied and every protest is severely repressed.

Hugo Blanco is 32 years old. He is an agronomist. For some years now he has struggled against this scandalous state of affairs. A trade unionist, he organized unions of peasants and led land seizures. He had in doing this come into conflict with the army and the police of the landowners.

Hunted down for months, he was arrested in 1963, tortured, along with seven companions, and condemned to 25 years in prison by a military tribunal in Tacna in September 1966.

But that isn't all: the inter American military command close to President Belaunde Terry intervened to demand that the peasant leader be executed. Another trial was then opened, in December 1966 in order to cut down Hugo Blanco.

World opinion is making its voice heard, alerted by Hugo Blanco's lawyers. Committees of solidarity formed in several countries. Letters and telegrams of protest were sent to President Belaunde Terry and demonstrations held demanding that the life of H. Blanco be spared and his comrades freed. Hugo Blanco's life was spared but the earlier verdict has been upheld: imprisonment for 25 years.

Another trial is to take place sometime in April at which H. Blanco again faces the death sentence.

Those who stand by universal principles, who uphold the rights of man, respect of the individual and the right to life, to bread and freedom to work, cannot remain indifferent to the struggle waged at the risk of their lives by men such as Hugo Blanco and his comrades.

We want amnesty and freedom for them.

That is why, if you are concerned about our project, we ask you to sign the petition enclosed in the stamped envelope and return it to us immediately. Please write your name and occupation clearly.

Thank you on their behalf.

C O P Y

QUEBEC FEDERATION OF LABOUR, 3333 Metropolitain Boul. E., Suite 500, Montreal 38, P.Q.

Montreal, April 6, 1967.

TO ALL AFFILIATED LOCALS AND STAFF MEMBERS:

Dear Brothers and Sisters;

As you will quickly see from reading the two short documents attached, the life of the unionist Hugo Blanco is in danger in Peru, because of his peasant trade union activity.

The whole world is alerted. The trade union movement is in solidarity with Blanco and his comrades. The QFL and its affiliates must do their part to prevent these unionists from the death sentence.

That is why we are asking you to sign the attached petition and to have it signed by your members. We want you to obtain the greatest possible number of signatures, using supplementary sheets of blank paper, and to send them back as soon as possible, using the return envelope enclosed.

We have always proclaimed our belief in the international solidarity of workers. Now is the time to prove it by signing the petition in favour of Hugo Blanco.

Fraternally,

Gerard Rancourt,
Secretary general.

# HUGO BLANCO'S LIFE SPARED

Nov. 15, 1967

Peruvian peasant leader Hugo Blanco, imprisoned since 1963 and confronted by the demand of military prosecutors that his life be taken, has become the object of a worldwide campaign for amnesty.

On October 12 the Supreme Military Court of Peru decided to spare his life, although it upheld the sentence condemning him to twenty-five years in prison. While all legal channels to appeal this savage sentence have now been exhausted, the campaign to secure his release through a presidential amnesty is continuing.

Conditions in the island fortress prison El Fronton where he is being held place his life in continued peril. His daily conditions of life are extremely onerous, forcing him to devote long hours of labor to accumulate the small sums of money required to buy his food. He also has a family, including two children, in dire straits.

It is important that the circumstances of life for this valiant fighter for freedom be eased, enabling him to have the time to read, write, and play the intellectual role in the Peruvian and Latin American struggle that he is able. To this end I am prepared to collect donations that I would forward to his attorney, Dr. Alfredo Battelina, in Lima.

Money orders and cheques should be sent to me; Robert McCarthy,
Massey College,
4 Devonshire Pl.,
Toronto, Canada.

P.S: In case you have not already heard about this case, or have not been contacted personally by me before, I have a pamphlet on Hugo Blanco's work and Latin American political repression generally, based on a speech and research by Professor Andre Gunder Frank. (30¢ a copy, 4 for $1).

June 19, 1967
Ano del Viet Nam Heroico.

Casa de las Americas
G y Tercera
Vedado, Habana

Dear friends:

The book by Regis Debray, Revolution en la Revolution has just arrived in the mail, and despite our poor Spanish we have been going over the pages. Yes, the book is a very timely contribution to the discussion of revolutionary strategy.

We would be pleased to hear if your house is planning an English translation of the work. We would be very glad to obtain 500 copies of the book in English. Please inform us if an English edition is planned, and what the cost of shipment and printing would be. In the mean time we would be pleased if you would send us another 20 copies of the Spanish edition and 50 copies in French.

Enclosed please find $ 3.00 to continue our subscription to the magazine Casas. We would appreciate as well receiving the new magazine Pensamiente Critico on a regular basis.

Also enclosed please find a report of activities being undertaken to save the life of Regis Debray.

Fraternally

Hans Modlich

Hans Modlich, Chairman

June 9, 1967

To Gen. Rene Barrientos:

We the participants at a rally tonight to protest the arbitrary arrest and harrassment of French journalist Regis Debray along with two other newspapermen, George Andrew Roth and Carlos Alberto Fructuoso, demand that they be released immediately in accordance with the recognized rights of journalists to gather information for the world press regardless of their political opinions.

In the event that a "legal murder" is perpetrated on Regis Debray, your regime will be remembered in history as one of the most infamously repressive in present-day Latin America.

# join the FIESTA CUBANA at expo 67

This year the FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE will be commemorating July 26 th with a special trip to EXPO 67 to visit the Cuban Pavilion at the conclusion of Cuba Week. Highlight of the trip will be a Cuban Fiesta Show, followed by a Reception at the Cuban Pavilion.

Buses will leave Toronto at 7 am on Saturday July 29th and return on the evening of the 30th. The cost of the two-day trip (travel and accommodation) will be $18 for adults, $14 for unemployed and high school students, $10 for children under 14 years.

MAKE YOUR RESERVATION NOW! COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW AND SEND IT IN WITH A MONEY ORDER OR CHEQUE IN THE APPROPRIATE AMOUNT.

Name.....

Address.....

.....Phone #.....

Send it in to the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, 165 Spadina Ave., room 30, Toronto for further information call 364-9521 on Monday or Thursday evenings: or 699-7383 or 927-8856.

Vancouver Fair Play for Cuba Committee
c/o Phil Courneyeur
1208 Granville St.,
Vancouver, B.C.

August 24, 1967.

Mr. Paul M Sweezy,
Monthly Review
116 West 14th Street
New York, N.Y. 100011.

Dear Mr. Sweezy:

I am writing again to invite you to consider a speaking engagement at a banquet sponsored by our Committee sometime this fall. I wrote you in June after reading about your projected tour of campuses for this fall.

Since then I have assumed that you have been waiting for more proposals and details about the tour to be assembled before replying to our suggestions.

However, we would like at this time to get a commitment from you if possible to speak at a banquet in connection with your tour. Since my original invitation, the finances of the Committee here have been under considerable strain and it would now be necessary for us to cooperate with other groups on a tour basis in order to be able to finance a speaking engagement here.

I have heard from a friend at the University of British Columbia that their Special Events Society is considering extending an invitation to you in response ~~the~~ to the note in the MR. But I have not been in touch with them directly, hoping first to hear from you.

Of course, we have no definite dates in mind for the banquet, keeping this open to fit in to the schedule you work out for a tour.

Yours for Cuba

Phil S. Courneyeur
Secretary.

File:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Sept. 7, 1967

A petition demanding the release of the French journalist, Regis Debray, currently on trial by a military court in Bolivia is being submitted to the Bolivian Military Junta with the signatures of over 40 prominent public figures.

Debray, a brilliant intellectual and also theorist of Latin American revolutionary movements is accused by the Bolivian Military Junta of having taken part in guerrilla struggles prior to his arrest. Subsequent reports revealed however, that Debray was arrested unarmed and in civilian clothes in the company of two other journalists. Debray entered the country as a reporter for the Mexican magazine Succesos and his reports would obviously have proven embarrassing to the regime. Intellectuals from all parts of the world have taken part in a campaign to secure Debray's release. Most prominent among the Canadian signatories are the following academic and public figures:

MILTON ACORN, poet, Vancouver
BRIAN BELFONT, high school teacher, Vancouver
CEDRIC BELFRAGE, journalist
J. CORNISH BOWDEN, School of Social Work
PHIL COURNEYER, teacher, Vancouver
CHANDLER DAVIS, mathematics department, University of Toronto
GEOFFREY DEAN, book publisher
ROSS DOWSON, exec. sec., League for Socialist Action
EDITH GUILD, Foreign Language Dept., York University, Toronto
W.A. HARRIS, Vancouver
CHARLES HANLEY, philosopher, University of Toronto
PETER HORBATIUK, Toronto
PERCY HUGGET, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 79
J.H. KNELMAN, Natural Sciences, York University
ANTON KUERTI, Faculty of Music, University of Toronto
ROBERT MCCARTHY, School of Graduate Studies, U. of T.,
C.B. MACPHERSON, Political Science Dept. University of Toronto
RON MAYNE, Toronto Coordinating Committee to End the War in Vietnam
JIM MAYOR, Student Union for Peace Action, Toronto
HANS MODLICH, Chairman, Fair Play for Cuba Committee
REGULA MODLICH, Alexander Defence Committee
RON MONKMAN, Canadian Union for Public Employees, Local 79
VERNEL OLSON, Toronto
W.R. PHILLYS, Political Science Dept., University of Michigan
GARY PORTER, exec. sec. Young Socialists, Ligue des Jeunes Socialistes
JEAN RANDS, mayorality candidate, Vancouver
H.L. ROBINSON, Chairman, Toronto Coordinating Committee
DON ROEBUCK, Student Union for Peace Action, Toronto
ELLIOT ROSE, History Dept., University of Toronto
A. ROTSTEIN, economist, University of Toronto
E. ROYTENBERG, Toronto Committee for Peace and Disarmament
W.A. ST. CYR
HARVEY L. SHEPHERD, journalist, Toronto
D.HOPE SIMPSON, geologist, St. Mary's University, Halifax
WILLIAM SPIRA, Third World Information Service
JOHN STEELE, Chairman, Socialist Caucus, N.D.P.
Dr. G. TOLENTINO, Toronto Coordinating Committee
KENNETH WALKER, Sociology Dept., University of Toronto
KEN. WARREN, exec. sec., Can. Com., Internat. War Crimes Tribunal
PAUL WEINZWEIG, Dept. of Sociology, Trent University, Peterborough
JEFFREY WHITE, editor, Canada Vietnam Newsletter
DONALD WILLMOTT, Dept. of Sociology, University of Toronto
ELIZABETH G. WILSON, bookseller

(Organizations for identification only)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION contact: R. McCarthy, Massey College,
4 Devonshire Place, or 533-9372

# PETITION FOR THE RELEASE OF REGIS DEBRAY

An international campaign to win the release of the French journalist Regis Debray from the prisons of the Bolivian regime is underway. First reports by the Bolivian military indicate that Debray had been arrested for being associated with a new guerilla front that has been opened up in that country. A few days later General Barrientos, head of the Bolivian military regime, threatened to execute Debray saying that "His adventures will come to an end in Bolivia."

Following the mounting world protests however, General Alfred Ovando, chief of the Bolivian armed forces, announced on May 13 that Debray will be tried and faces possible imprisonment for 30 years.

According to Marcel Niedergang reporting from Bolivia for the authoritative French daily Le Monde Debray was apprehended on April 20 in the village of Muyupampa while accompanied by two other newspapermen, one George Andrew Roth from Britain and the other Carlos A. Fructuoso, an Argentinian. All three were unarmed and in civilian clothing, obviously unprepared to stay in the Nancahuazu jungles for even a short time.

Dozens of outstanding personalities in France, including a winner of the Nobel prize for literature, Francois Mauriac, have sent messages speaking out for Debray to the Bolivian president. In Italy there have been similar moves, and film directors taking part in the Cannes Festival have added their voices to the appeals. Journalists' organizations in Mexico and Venezuela have requested the Bolivian government to release Debray and the two men arrested with him. In Argentina both Catholic and Protestant groups have sent messages on behalf of the group, as has the president of the Chilean Seante, Salvador Allende. Major cultural and trade union organizations in Cuba have joined the protest.

Debray is still being held incommunicado, despite attempts of the French diplomatic staff to intercede on his behalf. Debray's mother, a Paris city councillor, despite repeated efforts has been unable to see her son.

Canadian protests can aid significantly in the international campaign to win Regis Debray's release from prison. We urge all Canadians to add their name to the attached list of petitioners to be sent to the Bolivian authorities.

We the undersigned request the Bolivian authorities to promptly release Regis Debray

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Please turn over this sheet to Hans Modlich, 165 Spadina Ave, Room 30, Toronto 2B to be forwarded to the proper authorities

November 9th, 1967.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Officials of the Canadian Fair Play for Cuba Committee charged today that the recent wave of accusations made against the Cuban diplomatic staff and Expo personnel by Social Credit MP Robert Thompson, and indirectly backed by External Affairs Minister Paul Martin, are "completely without foundation, and constitute a deliberate move on Mr. Thompson's part to worsen diplomatic relations between Cuba and this country."

Without exception, said the Fair Play committee spokesmen, Mr. Thompson's charges are second hand or based on outright hearsay. Many of them appear to be warmed over rumours circulated earlier this year by a right wing U.S. scandal sheet, the Inside's Newsletter, alleging that Cuban Expo officials were engaged in the training of separatists.

Mr. Thompson's charge that Radio Havana, which has been broadcasting to North America in both English and French for many years, is inciting Canadians to revolt "is equally fallacious," the FPCC statement says. "Ottawa has had nearly one month since Thompson's charge to investigate the broadcasts, which Mr. Martin admits are monitored by American authorities, and they have not been able to come up with any evidence to suggest that 'outside subversion' is behind any unrest among Canada's Indians or French-speaking population.

"That Mr. Thompson should indulge in such irresponsible rumour peddling itself is not surprising," the statement continues, "since his party has been pressing continually for a break in diplomatic relations with Cuba. What is much more serious is that External Affairs Minister Martin has lent official credence to these ridiculous slanders by assuring Mr. Thompson that 'the charges are not being treated lightly.'

"Surely Mr. Martin is not unaware of the flood of provocations against the Cuban diplomatic mission, not to mention the bombings, which the government has to this day not cleared up. Rather than resolutely rejecting these accusations -- a duty Mr. Martin owes the Cuban mission -- he has himself added grist to the rumour mill. His behavior indicates a move on the part of the Canadian government to create friction between Ottawa and Havana. Only a full apology to the Cuban Embassy can dispel that impression."

-30-

for further information contact Fair Play for Cuba Committee, 165 Spadina Ave., Rm. 32, Toronto 2b. Phone 364-9521.

December 15, 1967.

Pauline Julienne,
Montreal, Quebec.

Dear Miss Julienne:

The news of your trip to Cuba has left us very enthusiastic, in fact elated. We assume that your tour and your participation in the Festival of Songs in Veradero have been very successful and will stimulate a more generous cultural exchange between Quebec and Cuba.

We are particularly interested in having you take part in our coming celebration on behalf of the Cuban Revolution, Fair Play's annual banquet which is the culmination of our efforts to bring the truth about Cuba to Canadians. The featured speaker for the evening will be Mr. Charles P. Howard, the widely known Negro columnist and former editor of the Baltimore Afro-American. Mr. Howard has attended the OLAS Conference and covered Stokely Carmichael's participation in it. He has been very favourably impressed by the Revolution calling it the "freest place for a black person to live". Your performing a few numbers would make our celebration a real top-notch event combing, as it would, the most dynamic aspects of North America with the Cuban Revolution and its attractivity to many hundreds here in the Toronto and surrounding area.

The projected date for this banquet will be Saturday, February 17, 1968. We are, of course, prepared to assume any expenses and to contribute a modest fee if you require one. We very much hope that this date is convenient for you and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours for Cuba,

Hans Modlich,
Chairman.

HM/nh

January 16, 1968.

Dr. Americo Cruz,
Ambassador of Cuba,
330 Chapel St.,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Dr. Cruz:

Please accept our warmest thanks for the hospitality and welcome accorded to us on the occasion of the celebration of the Ninth Anniversary of the Cuban Revolution. Year Ten of the Revolution has an effect which causes one to consider the fundamental historic importance of the Cuban Revolution, the first revolution to defy imperialism on its home base, and to do so successfully and with ever increasing dynamism and internationalism.

For us in the Fair Play for Cuba Committee it serves at the same time as a moment to rededicate our efforts and to strike out anew and boldly to make known the truth about Cuba and to defend and support its heroic stance vis-a-vis the most cynical force in modern history.

As I mentioned to you briefly, we are now proceeding full swing with our plans for the Fair Play for Cuba Banquet. Our feature speaker will be Charles P. Howard, widely known and respected Negro journalist, former editor of the Baltimore Afro-American. Mr. Howard, as you may be well aware, visited Havana during the OLAS Conference at the time of Stokeley's visit and has described Cuba as the freest place for a black man to live anywhere in the world. Mr. Howard in many ways will personify the most dynamic aspects and direction with which the Cuban experience can further the development of radicalism in the United States.

We are also hopeful that we may be able to have in our midst, Miss Pauline Julienne who has just returned from Cuba. Of course, we are planning to invite from Toronto all those elements which have been most directly identified with the popularising and defending the cause of the Cuban Revolution. We are reasonably confident to have Rev. John Morgan and Mr. Wayne Edmunstone as well as Mrs. Edith Guild among our head table guests. All three have supported the work of the Committee in one way or another in the recent past, at the Che Guevara Memorial Tribute and the meeting we held for Mr. Edmunstone specifically. Many other invitations will be sent out to make the banquet a broadly representative affair.

We would be especially pleased to have the pleasure of your and your gracious wife's presence at the banquet. The date once again is Saturday, February 17th, 1968 commencing at 6 p.m. at the Lansdown Assembly Hall, 10 Lansdowne Ave., Toronto.

Anticipating a reply at your earliest convenience, we remain,

Yours for Cuba,

Hans G. Medlich,
Chairman,
FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE.

cc: A. Breton,
Cuban Consul,
Toronto.

Jan 31 /68 , Ano del Guerrillero Heroico

Mr. Umberto Castaneda
Consul of Cuba in Toronto
77 York St. #605
Toronto 1, Ont.

Dear Umberto,

I would just like to take this opportunity to invite you formally to be among our head table guest along with your gracious wife, thisthe Fair Play for Cuba Banquet on Feb 17th at 6 p.m. As you know our special guest speaker will be Charles P. Howard who was in Cuba with Stkely Carmichael. The theme and decoratins of the banquet will be dedicated to Che Guevara.

I have attempted to contact Miss Isabel Alonso, a long-standing friend of the committee who is also a Spanish teacher. I have just written her a letter suggesting that she may be of assistance in helping you master English. I have suggested this earlier to Antonio and he expressed agreement with this proposal. I am hopeful that Miss Alonso will be agreeable to doing this.

I will attempt to drop by Thursday after 5.30 p.m.

Yours for Cuba

Hans Modlich

Hans Modlich

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

(1968) Toronto FPCC

Charles P. Howard

Widely travelled journalist, columnist and lecturer, he covered the OLAS conference in Havana. A highlight of his visit was a lengthly interview with Prime Minister Fidel Castro. Questioned on his return from Cuba, he stated that "The freest persons of African descent I have found anywhere are in Cuba."

# Fair Play for Cuba Committee

## ANNUAL BANQUET

**SAT. FEB. 17 6 P.M.**

***Lansdowne Banquet Hall***

***10 Lansdowne Ave***

**Tickets $3, or Students $2**

***FOR FURTHER INFORMATION , AND TICKETS, OR FOR LITERATURE ON CUBA***

***CONTACT FPCC, 165 SPADINA AVE., tel. 364-9521 or 531-4453.***

*Assembly on 1st anniversary of Day of Heroic Guerrilla in honour of*

# CHE GUEVARA

*his ideas and example in the continuing struggle for liberation*

*Featuring*

**Antonio Breton,**
**Cuban Ambassador**

**also**
**Gerald Caplan**
Ontario Institute for Studies in Education
**Hans Modlich**
Fair Play for Cuba Committee
**Al Purdy**
poet author of the New Romans
**Andy Wernick**
U. of T. Students Council

**plus FILM :**
**Ever Onward**
**to Victory"**

# FRIDAY OCT. 4, 8 pm

## Ont. College of Education - Bloor at Spadina

Sponsors: African Student's Union
Fair Play for Cuba Committee
Friends of Latin American People
Ontario Union of Students
Toronto Student Movement
U. of T. Latin America Justice Committ

for further information call 699-7383, 241-6557

FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE

amis du peuple cubain

To the People of Revolutionary Cuba on the 10th Anniversary of their Revolution:

Ten years ago on New Years Day 1959 the world was electrified by the triumphant entry of the Armed Forces of the 26th of July Movement into Havana, capital of Cuba, playground of the U.S. upper-middle class. The capitals of the bourgeois world, particularly Washington, were apprehensive about the new revolutionary leadership which replaced the hated Batista dictatorship. But the masses of the colonial and semicolonial world, especially the Cuban masses, were full of hppe.

America's ruling class had reason to believe, on the basis of the recent history of Latin America, that the new leaders in Cuba could be forced to capitulate or toe the line in the face of the massive economic and military might of the U.S. But the leadership of Cuba proved to be a genuinely revolutionary leadership.

When the U.S. State Department rallied behind the U.S. monopoly interests in Cuba, and challenged the right of the new Cuban government to legislate on behalf of the Cuban masses, the workers and peasants of Cuba rallied, in a truly inspiring way, to the defence of their revolution. A new and instructive chapter has been added to the history of the struggle for the social and economic emancipation of the world's masses.

The friends of the Cuban Revolution in Canada salute the workers, farmers and intellectuals of revolutionary Cuba on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the successful establishment of the first revolutionary power in the Americas. The tremendous social and economic achievements of the past ten years is living proof of the creative energies which reside in the masses. Cuba has demonstrated that before this creative energy can be tapped, the economic and political grip of the monopolies must be broken. Cuba has also shown that the prerequisite for all this is the destruction of the military power of the ruling class.

Just as they have overcome the obstacles of the past, we are extremely confident that the Cuban leadership, at the head of the revolutionary Cuban people, will continue their victorious march toward socialism in the forefront of the struggle to free mankind.

Hasta la Victoria Siempre!
Ever onward to victory!

Dec. 22, 1968
Toronto Canada

Fair Play for Cuba Committee.

PRESS RELEASE___PRESS RELEASE_____PRESS RELEASE____PRESS RELEASE___

10 Years of Progress—genuine revolutionary progress—was the theme of theannual Fair Play for Cuba banquet, held in Toronto March 15 in honour of the 10th anniversary of the Cuban Revolution.

Some 200 persons in attendance heard Ricardo Escartin, First Secretary at the Cuban Embassy in Ottawa ,outline the path of the revolution towards creating the New Man. He paid tribute to the FPCC for its 8 years of consistent work in defense of the Cuban people.

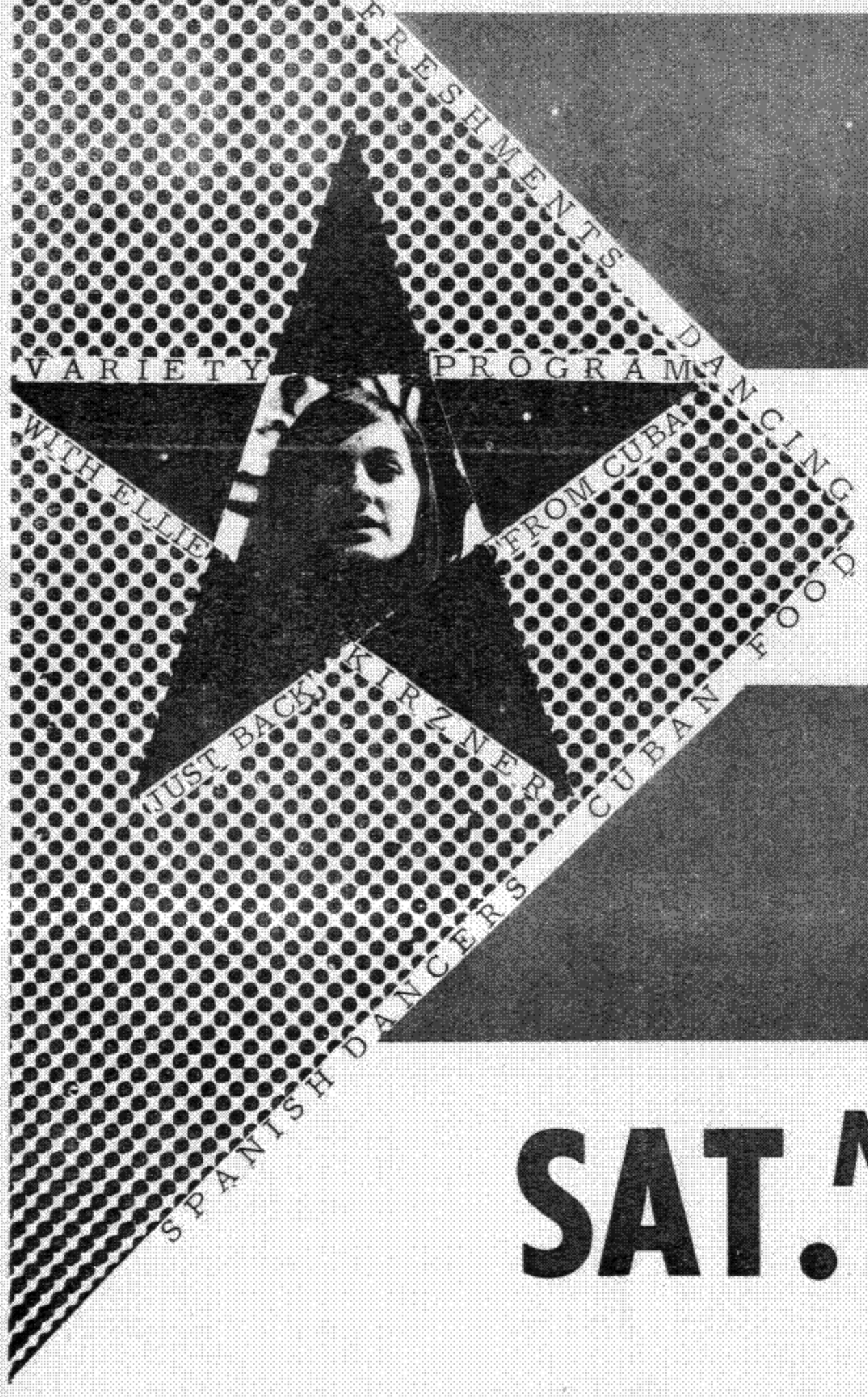
Ellie Kirzner, Fair Play for Cuba delegate to the 10th Anniversary celebrations in Havana, and Young Socialist candidate in the recent student elections at the University of Toronto, spoke of her impressions of Cuban youth, their consciousness militant internationalism, and above all conviction in blazing the trail for a better socialist future. She concluded her talk with a call for 2,3, many Cubas.

Greetings to the celebration were received from Stephen Lewis, NDP member of Provincial Parliament, and Rev. John Morgan of the First Unitarian congregation.

"Today Cuba" a Cuban photo exhibit was shown for the first time in Toronto and provided graphic evidence of the Cuban peoples strides forward.

A gift of handicrafts and tobacco from the Cuban Institute of Freindship was gratefully accepted by the audience, who contributed a generous $750—for the continuation and expansion of the committees work in the next year.

# Fair Play for Cuba Committee




# BANQUET

*Celebrating the 10th anniversary of the revolution*

## SAT. March 15 6pm

## N T Memorial Gdns 180 Eglinton Ave.W.

admission $3.50
students $2.00

MICHAEL LOWY *

# Che Guevara: in search of a new socialism

**From the annual lecture presented by Michael Löwy to the Fondazione Ernesto Che Guevara (Italy, June 15–17, 2001)**

In an article published in 1928, José Carlos Mariátegui, the true founder of Latin American Marxism, wrote: "Of course, we do not want socialism in Latin America to be an imitation or a copy. It must be a heroic creation. We must inspire Indo-American socialism with our own reality, our own language. That is a mission worthy of a new generation[1]." His warning went unheard. In that same year the Latin American communist movement fell under the influence of the Stalinist paradigm, which for close to a half century imposed on it an imitation and copy of the ideology of the Soviet bureaucracy and its so-called 'actually existing socialism'.

We do not know whether Che was acquainted with Mariátegui's article. He may have read it, for his companion, Hilda Gadea, loaned him Mariátegui's writings in the years preceding the Cuban revolution. Whatever the case, much of his political thought and practice, especially in the 1960s, can be said to have been aimed at emerging from the impasse to which the servile imitation of the Soviet model had led in Eastern Europe. His ideas on the construction of socialism are an attempt at 'heroic creation' of something new, the search—interrupted and incomplete—for a distinct model of socialism, radically opposed in many respects to the 'actually existing' bureaucratic caricature.

From 1959 to 1967, Che's thought evolved considerably. He distanced himself ever further from his initial illusions concerning Soviet or Soviet-style socialism—that is, from the Stalinist version of Marxism. In a 1965 letter to a Cuban friend, he harshly criticized the 'ideological tailism' that was manifested in Cuba by the publication of Soviet manuals for instruction in Marxism. These manuals, 'Soviet bricks' to use his expression, "have the disadvantage of not letting you think: the Party has already done it for you and you have to digest it[2]." Still more explicit, especially in his post-1963 writings, is his rejection of the 'imitation and copy' and his search for an alternative model, his attempt to formulate another path toward socialism, one that is more radical, more egalitarian, more fraternal, more human, and more consistent with the communist ethic.

Che's death in October 1967 interrupted a process of independent political maturation and intellectual development. His work is not a closed system, a polished system of thought with an answer to everything. On many questions, such as planning, the struggle against bureaucracy and so on, his thinking remains incomplete[3].

The driving force behind this quest for a new road—over and above the specific economic issues—was the conviction that socialism is meaningless and consequently cannot triumph unless it holds out the offer of a civilization, a social ethic, a model of society that is totally antagonistic to the values of petty individualism, unfettered egoism, competition, the war of all against all that is characteristic of capitalist civilization, this world in which 'man eats man'.

The construction of socialism is inseparable from certain moral values, in contrast to the 'economistic' conceptions of Stalin, Krushchev and their successors, who consider only the 'development of the productive forces'. In a famous interview with the journalist Jean Daniel, in July 1963, Che was already developing an implicit critique of 'actually existing socialism': "Economic socialism without a communist morale does not interest me. We are fighting poverty, but at the same time alienation.... If communism is dissociated from consciousness, it may be a method of distribution but it is no longer a revolutionary morality[4]."

If socialism claims to fight capitalism and conquer it on its own ground, that of productivism and consumption, using the weapons of capitalism—the commodity form, competition, self-centred individualism—it is doomed to failure. It cannot be said that Che anticipated the dismantlement of the USSR, but in a way he did have the intuition that a 'socialist' system that does not tolerate differences, that does not embody new values, that attempts to imitate its adversary, that has no ambitions but to 'catch up to and surpass' the production of the imperialist metropolises, has no future.

Socialism, for Che, represented the historical project of a new society based on values of equality, solidarity, collectivism, revolutionary altruism, free discussion and mass participation. His increasing criticisms of 'actually existing socialism', like his practice as a leader and his thinking about

the Cuban experience, were inspired by this communist utopia, in the sense given this concept by Ernst Bloch[5].

Three things express in concrete terms this aspiration of Guevara and his search for a new path: the discussion on the methods of economic management, the question of the free expression of differences and the perspective of socialist democracy. The first clearly occupied a central place in Che's thinking, while the other two, which are closely related, are much less developed, with some lacunae and contradictions. But they are ever-present in his concerns and his political practice.

## 1 The methods of economic management

This refers to the famous discussion in 1963-64 concerning various aspects of planning, in which he found himself in opposition to supporters of the Soviet model: the Minister of Foreign Trade, Alberto Mora, and the director of the National Institute of Agrarian Reform (INRA), Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, who were supported by the well-known French Marxist economist Charles Bettelheim.

The positions of Ernesto Guevara—which were supported by the Belgian Marxist economist (and Fourth International leader) Ernest Mandel—constituted a radical critique, initially implicit and later explicit, of 'actually existing socialism'. The main aspects of the East European model opposed by Che were[6]:

- the law of value as an objective law of the economies in transition to socialism, a thesis of Stalin upheld at the time by Charles Bettelheim;
- the commodity as the basis of the system of production;
- competition (between enterprises or between workers) as a factor in increasing productivity;
- individual rather than collective incentives and distribution methods;
- economic privileges of managers and administrators; and
- market criteria in the economic relations among socialist countries.

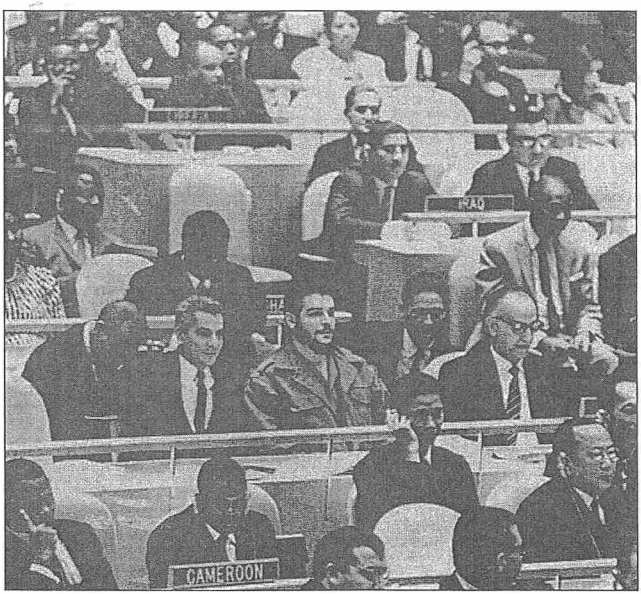
In his famous 'Speech in Algiers' in February 1965, Ernesto Guevara called on the countries claiming to be socialist to "put an end to their implicit complicity with the exploiting countries of the West" as expressed in the unequal exchange relationships they were carrying on with peoples engaged in struggle against imperialism. Socialism, in Che's view, "cannot exist without a change in consciousness to a new fraternal attitude toward humanity, not only within the societies which are building or have built socialism, but also on a world scale toward all peoples suffering from imperialist oppression"[7].

In his March 1965 essay, 'Socialism and Man in Cuba', analyzing the models for building socialism that were applied in Eastern Europe, Che rejected the conception that claimed to "conquer capitalism with its own fetishes". "The pipe dream that socialism can be achieved with the help of the dull instruments bequeathed to us by capitalism (the commodity as the economic cell, profitability, individual material interest as a lever and so on) can lead into a blind alley.... To build communism it is necessary, simultaneous with the new material foundations, to build the new man."[8]

One of the major dangers in the model imported from the countries of Eastern Europe was the increase in social inequality and the formation of a privileged layer of technocrats and bureaucrats: in this system of remuneration, "it is the directors who always earn more. Just look at the recent proposal in the German Democratic Republic; the importance assigned to management by the director, or what's more the director's remuneration for managing."[9] Basically, the debate was a confrontation between an 'economistic' view, which considered the economic sphere as an autonomous system governed by its own laws like the law of value or the laws of the market, and a political conception of socialism, in which economic decisions concerning production priorities, prices and so on are governed by social, ethical and political criteria.

Che's economic proposals—planning in opposition to market forces, the budgetary finance system, collective or 'moral' incentives—were attempts to find a model for building socialism based on these criteria, and thus differing from the Soviet model.

It should be added that Guevara did not successfully develop a clear idea of the nature of the Stalinist bureaucratic system. In my opinion, he was mistaken in tracing the origin of the problems and limitations of the Soviet experience to the NEP rather than the Stalinist Thermidor.[10]




*Che in the Cuban delegation to the United Nations*

## 2 Freedom of discussion

In the economic discussion of 1963-64, an important political aspect that is worth noting is the very fact of the discussion, that is, the position that the public expression of disagreements is normal in the process of building socialism, or the legitimation of a certain democratic pluralism within the revolution.

This problematic was only implicit in the economic debate. Guevara never developed it explicitly or systematically, and he certainly did not link it with the question of democracy in planning. But he did adopt, on several occasions during the 1960s, a favourable attitude toward freedom of discussion within the revolutionary camp and toward respect for a plurality of opinions.

An interesting example may be found in his conduct in regard to the Cuban Trotskyists, whose analyses he did not agree with at all (he criticized them harshly on more than one occasion). In 1961, in a discussion with the North American left-wing intellectual Maurice Zeitlin, Guevara denounced the destruction by the Cuban police of the printing plates for Trotsky's 'Permanent Revolution' as "an error" that "should not have been done". And a few years later, shortly before leaving Cuba in 1965, he managed to free the Cuban Trotskyist leader Roberto Acosta Hechevarria from prison, taking leave of him with a fraternal greeting: "Acosta, you can't kill ideas with blows."[11] The clearest example is his reply, in a 1964

report to his comrades in the Ministry of Industry, to the charge of 'Trotskyism' leveled against him by some Soviets: "In this regard, I think that either we have the capacity to destroy contrary opinions with arguments or we should let them be expressed.... It is not possible to destroy opinions by force, because that blocks any free development of intelligence. There is much that is worthwhile in Trotsky's thinking, although it seems to me that his fundamental conceptions were wrong and his later action mistaken." [12]

the imposition of a single form of art: "the kind of 'art' functionaries understand". With this method, he emphasized, "True artistic inquiry ends" and "a straitjacket" is put "on the artistic expression of the man who is being born...." [13]

### 3 Socialist democracy

Although Che never managed to elaborate a finished theory of the role of democracy in the socialist transition—perhaps the major gap in his work—he rejected the authoritarian and dictatorial conceptions that did so much damage to socialism during the 20th century. To those who claim "to educate the people" from above, a false doctrine already criticized by Marx in the Theses on Feuerbach ("who will educate the educator?"), Che answered in a speech in 1960: "The first recipe for educating the people is to bring them into the revolution. Never assume that by educating the people they will learn, by education alone, with a despotic government on their backs, how to conquer their rights. Teach them, first and foremost,

It is no accident, therefore, that Guevara's most explicit defence of freedom of expression and most direct criticism of Stalinist authoritarianism was manifested in the field of art. In his famous essay 'Socialism and Man in Cuba' (1965), he denounced Soviet-style 'socialist realism' as

to conquer their rights and when they are represented in government they will effortlessly learn whatever is taught to them and much more." Or in other words: the only emancipatory pedagogy is the self-education of the people through their own revolutionary practice, or as Marx put it in The German Ideology, "The coincidence of the changing of circumstances and of human activity or self-changing can be conceived and rationally understood only as revolutionary practice." *14 Along the same lines are some critical notes from 1966 concerning a Soviet political economy manual that contain this blunt formula: "Stalin's great historical crime was to have depreciated communist education and instituted the unfettered cult of authority." [15]

The major limitation lies in the insufficiency of his thinking about the relationship between democracy and planning. His arguments in defence of planning and in opposition to market categories are extremely important and acquire new relevance in light of the neoliberal vulgate that now dominates with its 'market religion'. But they leave aside the key political question: Who does the planning? Who determines the major options in the economic plan? Who determines the production and consumption priorities? Without a genuine democracy—that is, without (a) political pluralism; (b) free discussion of priorities; and (c) free choice for the population between the various economic propositions and platforms that are being debated—planning is inevitably transformed into a bureaucratic and authoritarian system of 'dictatorship over needs' (as is amply demonstrated by the history of the former Soviet Union). In other words, the economic problems of the transition to socialism are inseparable from the nature of the political system. The Cuban experience over the last three decades reveals, as well, the negative consequences of the absence of democratic socialist institutions, although Cuba has managed to avoid the worst bureaucratic and totalitarian aberrations of the other states of supposed 'actually existing socialism'.

This debate is related to the problem of the revolution's institutions. Guevara rejected bourgeois democracy, but—notwithstanding his anti-bureaucratic and egalitarian sensibility—he was far from having a clear vision of socialist democracy. In 'Socialism and Man in Cuba', he acknowledges that the revolutionary state may make mistakes, thereby provoking a negative reaction among the masses and forcing the state to make a correction: the example he cites is the sectarian policy of the party under the leadership of Anibal Escalante in 1961-62. But, he notes, "Clearly this mechanism is not adequate for insuring a succession of judicious measures. A more structured connection with the masses is needed...." At first, he seems to be satisfied with a vague "dialectical unity" between the leaders and the masses. But a few pages later he confesses that the problem is far from an adequate resolution that would

allow effective democratic control: "This institutionalization of the revolution has not yet been achieved. We are looking for something new...." [16]

We know that, in the final years of his life, Ernesto Guevara had gone a long way in distancing himself from the Soviet model, in his rejection of the 'imitation and copy' of 'actually existing socialism'. But a good part of his final writings have remained unpublished for inexplicable reasons. Among these documents is a radical critique of the Manual of Political Economy of the Academy of Sciences in the USSR, written in 1966. In an article published in 1996, Carlos Tablada, the author of an important book on Che's economic thought, cites some paragraphs from this document, to which he had access but was not authorized to publish in full. One such paragraph is extremely interesting, for it shows that in his final political thoughts, Guevara came close to the idea of socialist democracy: a democratic planning process in which the people themselves, the workers, 'the masses', to use his terminology, will make the major economic decisions: "In contradiction with a conception of the plan as an economic decision by the masses, conscious of the peoples' interests, we are offered a placebo, in which only the economic factors determine the collective fate. This is a mechanistic, non-Marxist technique. The masses must be able to direct their fate, to decide which share of production will be assigned respectively to accumulation and consumption. Economic technique must operate within the limits of this information and the consciousness of the masses must ensure its implementation." [17]

In October 1967, the assassins' bullets of the CIA and its Bolivian allies interrupted this work of 'heroic creation' of a new revolutionary socialism and a new democratic communism. □

* *Michael Löwy is author of many books, including* La Pensée de Che Guevara [The Marxism of Che Guevara], La théorie de la révolution chez le jeune Marx, Dialectique et révolution, Marxisme et théologie de la libération [Marxism and Liberation Theology], Patries ou Planète? [Fatherland or Mother Earth?], Nationalismes et internationalismes de Marx à nos jours, La guerre des dieux [The War of Gods: Religion and Politics in Latin America]. *Michael Löwy is Research Director in Sociology at the CNRS (National Center for Scientific Research) in Paris. This contribution, presented at the annual lecture of the Fondazione Ernesto Che Guevara (Italy, June 15-17, 2001), was published in an abridged version by the Swiss monthly Solidarités, No 15, October 10, 2002, from which this translation has in large part been taken. The translation is by Richard Fidler.*

1 *José Carlos Mariátegui (1894-1930). One of the major Marxist thinkers of Latin America. He is primarily known for his Seven Interpretive Essays on Peruvian Reality (1928) (University of Texas, Austin, 1971). Michael Löwy's quotation is taken from a September 1928 article originally published in the journal Amauta (JC Mariátegui, 'Aniversario y balance', in Ideología y Política, Lima, Biblioteca Amauta, 1971, p 249).*

2 *Letter from Che to a Cuban friend (1965). This letter is one of Che's documents that remain unpublished, including in Cuba. Carlos Tablada quotes from it in his article* 'Le marxisme d'Ernesto (Che) Guevara', *Alternatives Sud, vol. III, 1996, 2, p 168. See also, by the same author,* Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism *(Pathfinder Press, 1992) and* Cuba, quelle transition? *(L'Harmattan, 2001).*

3 *Fernando Martínez Heredia correctly notes that "... there are even some positive aspects to the incomplete nature of Che's thinking. The great thinker is there, points to some problems and some approaches, shows some possibilities, and demands that his comrades think, study, and combine practice and theory. It becomes impossible, once one really comes to terms with his thought, to dogmatize it and transform it into a speculative bastion or a receptacle of slogans."* ('Che, el socialismo y el comunismo', *in: Pensar el Che, Centro de estudios sobre América, Editorial José Martí, Havana, 1989, vol. II, p. 30.) See also the book by Fernando Martínez Heredia, with the same title:* Che, el socialismo y el comunismo, *Havana, Casa de las Américas prize, 1989.*

4 L'Express, *July 25, 1963, p 9.*

5 *Ernst Bloch (1885-1977). A German philosopher and sociologist, exiled to the United States in 1935, he became a professor at Karl Marx University in Leipzig in 1949, and at the University of Tübingen after going over to the West in 1961. From* The Spirit of Utopia *(1918) to* The Principle of Hope *(1954-59), this unorthodox Marxist sought to restore to socialism its secular messianic dimension. Recommended reading in regard to Block:* L'utopie concrète d'Ernst Bloch, une biographie *(Éditions Kimé, Paris 2001), and the comment on it by Raphaël Ramuz, assistant professor at the University of Lausanne, at www.remue.net/litt/bloch01.html. [Ed]*

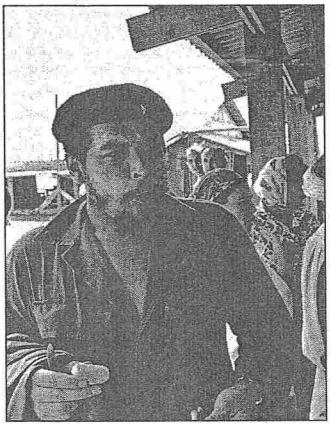
6 *In the context of this article I am unable to present in greater detail this economic discussion; I addressed it in the 2nd chapter of my book* The Marxism of Che Guevara.

7 *Ernesto Che Guevara,* Œuvres 1957-1967, *Tome 2, Paris, François Maspero, 1971, p 574. English version URL is at: http://www.chehasta.narod.ru/eaasia.htm*

8 *Ernesto Che Guevara, ibid, pp 371-372. [For an English version, see: http://chehasta.narod.ru/socman.htm.]*

9 *Ernesto Che Guevara,* Le plan et les hommes, *in Œuvres 1957-1967, Tome 6, Textes inédits, Paris, Maspero, 1972, p. 90.*

10 *This concept is very clear in the essay on political economy that Che wrote in 1966, from which Carlos Tablada quotes certain extracts in his article* Le marxisme d'Ernesto (Che) Guevara. *Janette Habel rightly observes that Guevara put "too much emphasis, in the economic criticism of Stalinist deformations, on the weight of market relations and not enough on the police and repressive nature of the Soviet political system". (J Habel, preface to M Löwy,* La pensée de Che Guevara, *Paris, Syllepse, 1997, p 11)*



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